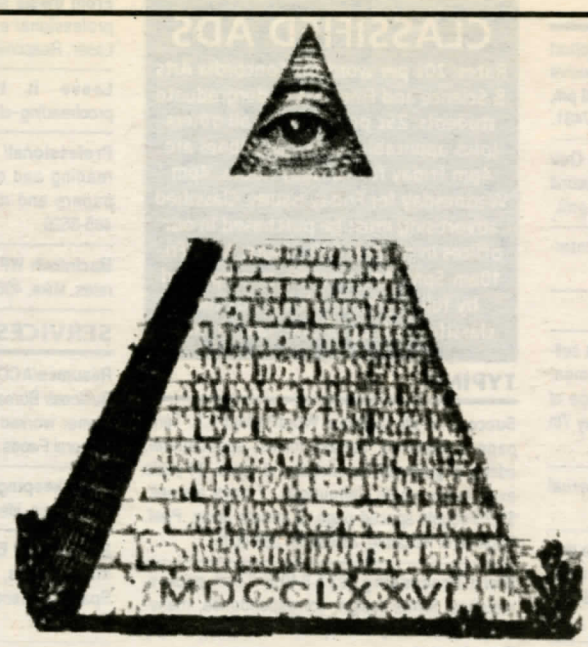
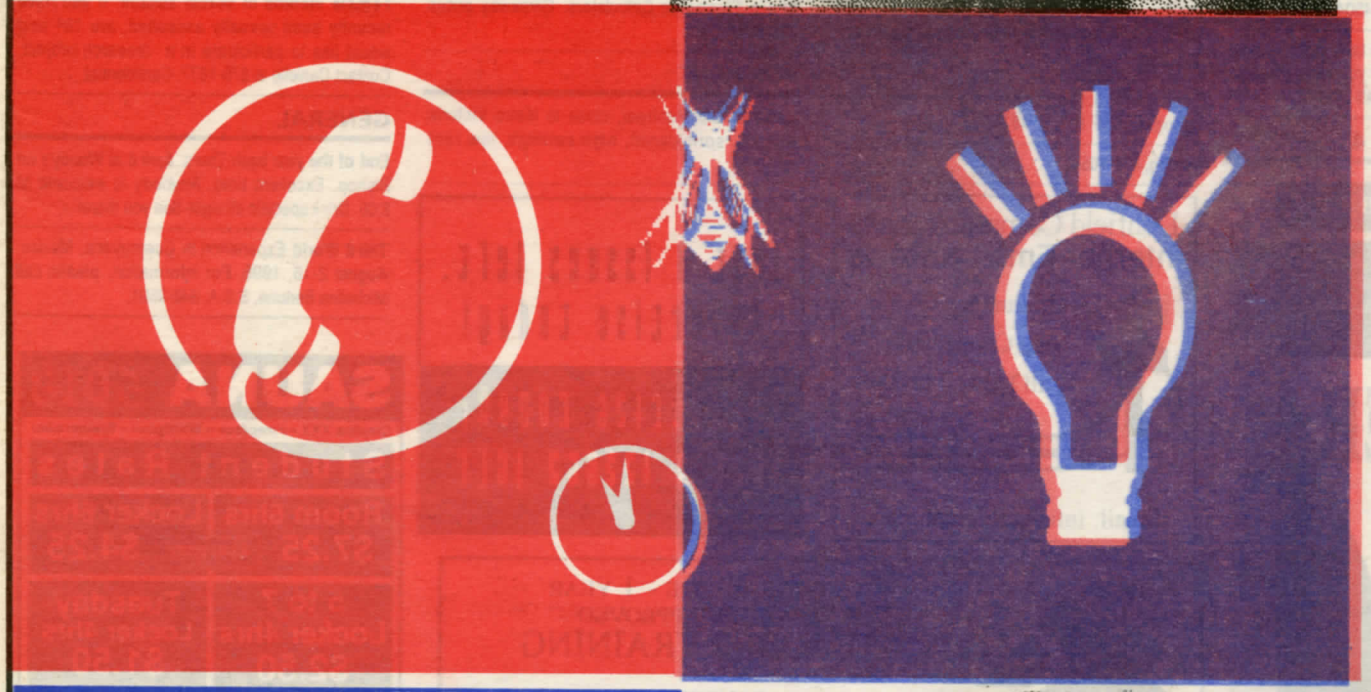
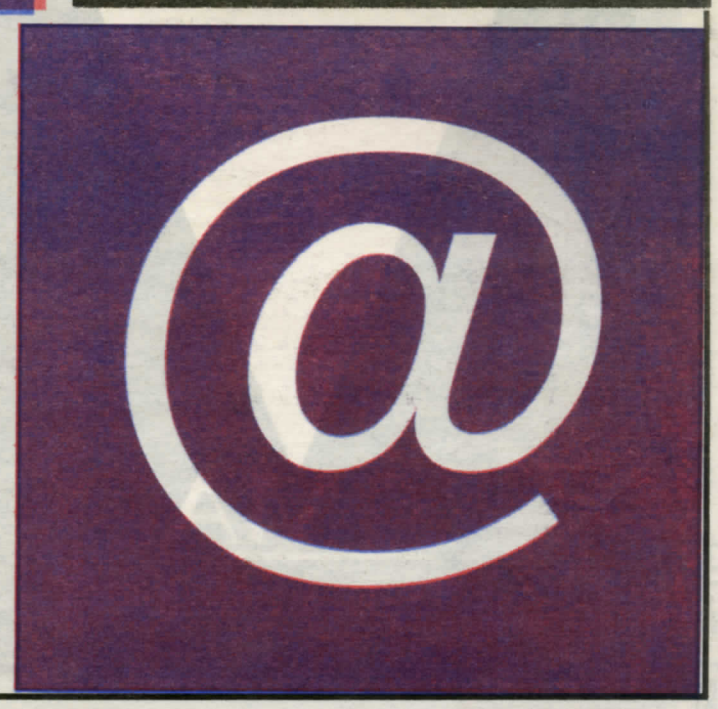


culture & technology

March 28, 1995 Vol. 15 #4



the Link



cover by Mark Brooker

AGENDA

The Agenda is a free service to publicize events of interest to the Concordia community. Priority is given to non-profit and student groups. Drop off your info at our office, room H-649 in the Hall building, or mail it, to *the Link*–Agenda. Deadlines are 4pm, Friday for Tuesday issues, and 4 pm Wednesday for Friday issues.

Tuesday March 28

Nutrition Workshop sponsored by Health Services focusing on getting the most out of a vegetarian diet. 12-1:30 pm, H-653.

Welfare Information Meeting sponsored by Project Genesis will discuss strategies and tactics for targetting federal budget cuts. 1 pm, 5829 Cote des Neiges.

Wednesday, March 29

Wine & Cheese Party for all senior students, sponsored by the Sparklers Club. Non-alcoholic beverages will be available. 4-7 pm, Mezz Café.

Thursday, March 30

Nutrition Workshop sponsored by Health Services focusing on getting the most out of a vegetarian diet. 12-1:30 pm, H-653.

Spiritual Values in the University, a public lecture with Daniel Cere and Rev. Terry Tekippe. 3:30 to 5 pm, Lonergan College, 7302 Sherbrooke West.

Story-telling in the Future: On Time and Tense in Homer, a talk by University of Montreal Professor Egbert Bakker. 4 pm, AD-435.

History, Reading and Critical Theory, a lecture by Cornell University Professor Dominick Lacapra. 7:30 pm, De Seve Theatre.

Friday, March 31

Current Situation in Parkistan, a discussion facilitated by Dr. Mohd Qadeer, the Director of Urban & Regional Planning at Queen's University. 6 pm, Strathearn Centre, 3680 Jeanne Mance, 4th Floor.

Monday, April 3

"The Politics of Native Literature," a lecture on First Nations Education by Dr. Mike Wilson of the University of Wisconsin. 1-3 pm, H-413.

Thursday, April 6

Feminism in Cuba, a talk by Nancy Islesias, an international representative for the Federation of Cuban Women. 4 pm, Simone de Beauvoir Lounge, 2170 Bishop. Info: 848-2370.

WOMEN

The Healing Circle, a discussion and support group for Women who are/ have been in abusive relationships with men. Wednesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm, Concordia Women's Centre. Information: 848-7431.

Lesbian and Bisexual Women's Coming Out/ Support Group (18 to 25 yrs). Meets every second Wednesday. Info: Project 10, 989-4585 (1 to 5 pm).

SOS Violence conjugale. 24 hour crisis intervention and shelter referral. 873-9010.

Mouvement contre le viol: 842-5040.

Montréal Assault Prevention Centre offers a self-defense course called ACTION for women. Techniques to help women deal with any type of aggression. Next course in English will be May 7th and 14th. To register call: 284-1212.

24 Hour Hotline & Crisis Line, Montreal Sexual Assault Centre, 934-4504.

Centre des femmes de Montréal: Services de première ligne, 842-4780; Service aux femmes immigrantes, 842-0814; Option'Elle, 842-6652; Formation'Elle, 842-4776.

Centre for AIDS Services for Women needs volunteers. Info: 989-7997, Basia.

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre provides free counselling and emotional support, medical assessment and treatment, information on police and court procedures, court accompaniment, support groups for survivors and public education on sexual assault issues. Info: 934-4504.

Volunteers Needed for Parathèse, a unique playground for immigrant mothers & their children. Tuesday or Thursday 1-4:15 pm. Info: Cyndy, 934-0354, ext. 354.

Women's Spirituality: Irrepressible Spirit A series of videos and discussions exploring women's perspectives and experiences within various religious traditions. Tuesdays from 4:15-6 pm, Z-105. Info: Daryl Lynn Ross, 848-3585.

Committee Against Human Life International: Women interested in planning a protest against the Montreal conference of this racist, anti-Muslim, anti-semitic, homophobic, anti-choice organization can leave messages for the committee against Human Life International at the Concordia Women's Centre, 848-7431.

Montreal Sexual Assault Centre needs volunteers for its 24 hour telephone crisis line. Concerned, bilingual women should call 934-4504, 934-0354.

Big Gals & Goddesses, wanna talk? A discussion group for big women . Whether you wear dresses or overalls, nylons or not. Info: 848-7431.

continued on page 4

CLASSIFIED ADS

Rates: 20¢ per word for Concordia Arts & Science and Fine Arts undergraduate students; 25¢ per word for all others (plus applicable taxes). Deadlines are 4pm Friday for Tuesday issues, 4pm Wednesday for Friday issues. Classified advertising must be purchased in our offices in room H-649. Hours: Mon-Fri, 10am-5pm. Ads must be accompanied by full payment. We do NOT take classified ads by phone, fax, or mail.

TYPING

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FOR SALE

Child's dresser with hutch & changing table; mattress, box spring & frame; Aiwa stereo/cassette deck and wedding gown. 486-4198.

For sale: three-piece Ikea sofa set (three-seat, two-seat and chair) in good condition, dusty rose and off-white stripe cushions on treated pine, $250.00. Call Gabrielle K. at 848-3817.

Computer: 286, 40 MEG hard disk, colour EGA monitor, 640k RAM, software, $350. 486SX: 120M hard disk, VGA mono, 4M RAM, $750. 489-0866.

Sharp Electronic Calculators. Giveaway prices. 735-8645, Dan.

FOR RENT

Lofts in Old Montreal, close to Metro Victoria. Heated, sprinklered, high ceilings, low rent. 861-3787.

Sublet, 4 1/2, furnished, hardwood floors. NDG. May to August. Possibility for lease. 369-2570.

Sublet, 6 1/2, downtown, furnished, hardwood floors, May-Sept. 937-6008.

Beautiful 4 1/2 near Loyola. Equipped, fridge and stove, $395, 486-4077, 462-9370. Available immediately.

Recording studio, $8/ hr+technician, band or package deals available. Pag: 896-5218, Rod.

TO SHARE

5 1/2 duplex to share. $250/month (all-inclusive). Larry 364-1968.

Really cheap room with study in 7 1/2 on the plateau. April 1st. Lesbian positive. 499-0001.

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Paid participation in hypnosis research. If you're interested, call the Concordia Hypnosis Lab at 848-2213. Monday - Friday, 12-2 pm.

Female models, actresses needed for a photo shoot. Professional pictures in exchange. 633-8605. Leave message.

Summer jobs with International Health/ Nutrition Co. 856-4717.

Easy money. Need help learning Windows 3.11/ $8.00 hr. 761-4683.

WANTED

Interested in exploring the role of hypnosis in reports of UFO abduction experiences? Volunteer participants, willing to spend two hour-long sessions, are requested to contact our laboratory at 848-2213.

Female victims of sexual assault. If you have recently been sexually assaulted, are 18+ and would like to participate in a research project. Contact Danielle at 276-1677. Confidential.

GENERAL

End of the year bash-Thurs. April 6 at Woody's on Bishop. Excellent time. Anybody is welcome at 8:00. Drink specials all night-See you there!

Third World Experience in Cuernavaca, Mexico. August 2-16, 1995. For information, please call Michelina Bertone, S.S.A. 848-3591.

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CSU needs leader not banker: candidate

by Rob Bertrand

Concordia students need more than a banker to lead next year's student union, says presidential candidate Jonathan Carruthers.

Speaking at yesterday's student union election debates at Reggie's, Carruther's chastised three of the other candidates for being too narrowly focussed on finances and missing other issues.

Candidate Ray Hall promoted himself as a doer, lamenting what he feels has been lack of initiative over the last two years in the CSU. He also promised to allocate $25000 more for clubs and associations, $10000 for scholarships and bursaries, and $15000 for computer labs.

Christos Karidogiannis argued that the student union has been run by dreamers for far too long and like a game of monopoly. He said the union needs someone to bring it back to reality and get its books straightened out. "We can't just dream anymore, it's time to begin a new chapter.

"If you don't fix the financial services now, there won't be any student services next year," said Karidogiannis.

Lana Grimes pledged to cut student services' salaries in order to increase student services, and eliminate waste.

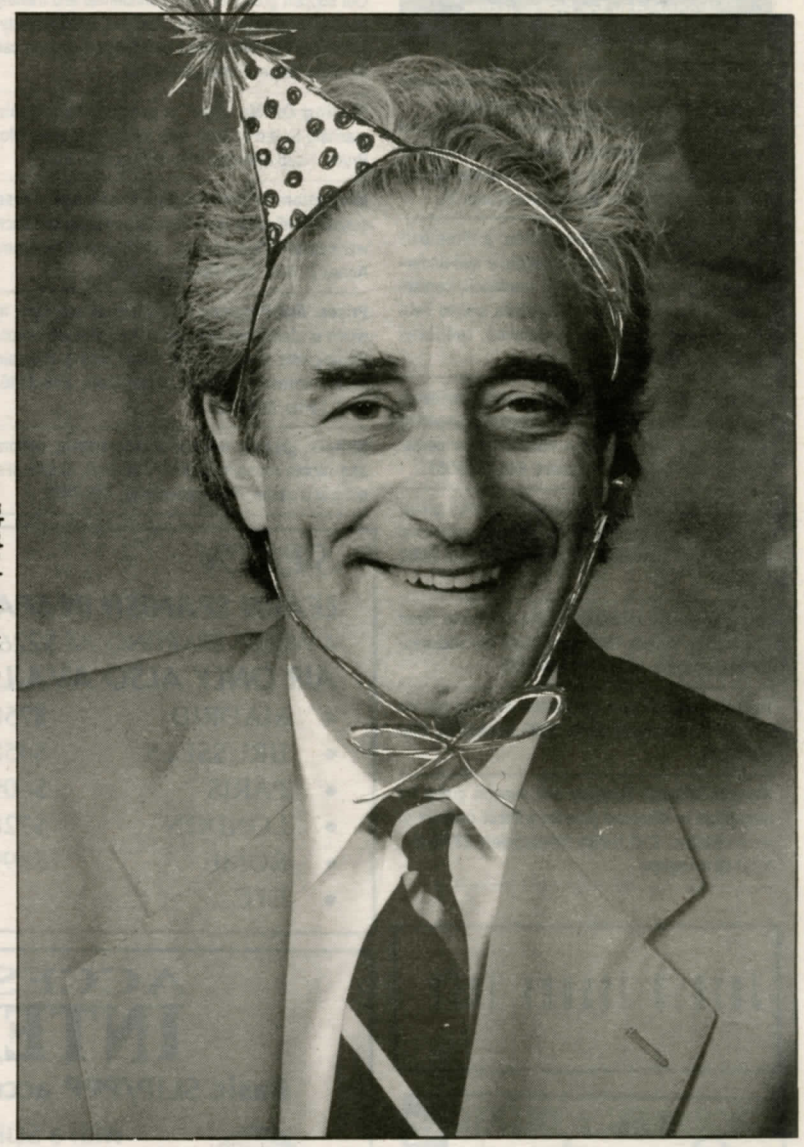
photo by Justin Rochefort

CSU presidential candidates debated yesterday at Reggies

"We need to stay online financially," said Len Pemberton. He stated that what the union needs most is a return to basics. He argued that previous administrations haven't displayed financial responsibility. "If you're spending money and then there's none, at the end of the year you end up cutting services." He has promised to have a budget ready to be voted on by the council of representatives by July.

But Carruthers stressed that there are more than financial issues that need to be dealt with. He wants to implement the student bill of rights, improve what he says are unhealthy and unsafe conditions on campus, including bad air, security and lighting, the asbestos in the walls, and lack of a proper sprinkler system.

Spot the Rector!



Frederick Lowy will be Concordia's next rector and vice-chancellor, a reliable source has told the Link. Lowy was the former director of the University of Toronto's Centre for Bioethics.

Members of the search committee for the new rector would not confirm the appointment of Dr. Lowy, but he is expected to receive his post at this Thursday's closed session of the Board of Governors. Welcome to Concordia Fred!

Flowers don't cut it: City project ignores NDG's concerns

by Tom Fotheringham

NDG needs some real economic support, not cosmetic surgery, local community groups are telling city hall.

Montreal mayor Pierre Bourque's administration will fuel money into 17 districts as part of its beautification project. Up to $100,000 could be spent in NDG alone for planting flowers, recycling programs and erasing graffiti.

The program is part of the administration's platform to establish a new "social contract" between elected officials, citizens and municipal employees

But a coalition of community groups, NDG 2000, had already established five areas of concern for the the electoral districts of NDG, Decarie and Loyola: youth issues, public security, economic development, inter-racial relations and urban environment. They say that planting flowers in the nicer part of NDG is a dismissal of what citizens are asking for.

"The city has decided what is important rather than listen to the people," said Sam Boskey, city councillor for Decarie. "Public participation in city government is being cut back but the administration is willing to put $100,000 into a project not asked for."

photo by Julien Saucier

Areas such as this one need more than flowers

Boskey wondered how planting flowers translated into social change. "Who is determining the agenda for the community?"

"People do come before beautification," said Philip Amsel, spokesman for the NDG Anti-poverty group. "It's just going to the rich. They should take care of Girouard, Orchard and Walkley areas. What are they going to do, see who grows the most tulips?" Amsel quipped.

Amsel says he has nothing against improving community life through beautification, but he would like to see concrete infrastructures like parks, community centres and low cost housing being the focus of resources.

According to Helene Lessard, assistant to Robert Laramée, councillor responsible for environment issues at City Hall, NDG was an exception in the beautification program.

She said that most of the 17 districts in the plan were in the north of Montreal where there are no established recycling programmes.

Isabelle Cottenceau, coordinator of the NDG Community Council, says that NDG was chosen for the pilot project since it would be an obvious success. Citizens in the area are already familiar with recycling, she said.

"This was dumped on us," said Cottenceau, coordinator of the NDG Community Council. "You can't say no to this kind of money. It's either here or somewhere else. But we're going to make sure that it is anchored in the community."

Although the project has to have its budget approved by council, it will be launched by the Mayor April 10. Lessard said that the budget might not reach $100,000 per district give the limited resources at City Hall.

CSU candidate in court

Council of representatives candidate Vasilos Karidogiannis pled not guilty in a Quebec court preliminary hearing yesterday to charges of uttering death threats.

Karidogiannis was arraigned by Candiac police on January 25 and charged with uttering death threats.

"It seems friends of mine have been persistently trying to give me and my brother a bad name," Karidogiannis said during student union debates yesterday at Reggie's bar.

Karidogiannis is also working closely on the presidential campaign of his brother, Christos.

Christopher Pattichis had complained to police that he had received several death threats to his cellular phone.

Pattichis was Christos Karidogiannis' office manager during his fall municipal election campaign in Park Extension. He was fired over internal disputes, according to Vasilos Karidogiannis.

The case is scheduled to go to trial this fall.

—Paul Hainsworth

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PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Interested in becoming a Peer Helper. Drop by the Peer Helper Centre at 2090 Mackay or call 848-3585. Deadline for applications: March 31.

Self-Knowing & Communication, a three-part afternoon workshop series to explore self-understanding, giving and receiving feedback, conflict styles an communication skills (series started Feb. 10). For registration and Information, call Daryl Lynn Ross, 848-3585.

Counselling Workshops on career and educational planning. Also, private & confidential counselling for personal, educational & vocational concerns. Info: Counselling & Development, 848-3545/3555.

Sex and Spirit Collective a social justice group attempting to heal the divisions between our sexual and spiritual identities. Thursdays 4-6 pm, 2090 Mackay.

Sign-language courses at the Montreal Deaf Community Centre. Placement tests are required. 65 de Castelnau. Info: TTY: 279-8535.

Peer Helpers is a free, confidential listening service of students helping students. 2090 Mackay St. Info: 848-2859.

Parents Without Custody is a support group for separated or divorced parents without custody of their children. Call Nancy Montgomery,937-5351, local 48 to register.

Sign up now for workshops on communication skills, career & life planning, building relationships, study skills, loss and grieving support groups etc. For information, call Counselling & Development, 848-3545/3555.

Start Keeping a Budget: Financial Aid & Awards offers personal budgeting information sessions on Mondays at 3 pm & Tuesdays at 11am. Please sign up in advance in the Financial Aid office LB -085.

Questioning your sexual orientation? Coming Out support group for men, confidential and friendly atmosphere. Wednesdays, 7:30 pm, 2090 Mackay, Room 02. For information or individual support call the Peer Helper Centre, 848-2859.

"Living On My Own" a program for people planning to live on their own for the first time. Info: Bruce, Head & Hands: 481-0277 or 481-3643.

Meditation: A Tool For Self-Knowledge. These sessions will draw upon various traditions and each will include a "quiet sitting". Wednesdays 12-1 pm, Annex Z. Info: Daryl Ross, 848-3585.

Prison Visit Program: An eight-week program , in which students visit inmates at Archambault Prison. Participants should call to speak with a chaplain before entering program, Peter Coté, 848-3586, Matti Terho, 848-3590

Writers, graphic artists, photographers, editors and rabble rousers wanted. The Link. H-649. It's not just a career; it's an adventure. 848-7405.

ACADEMIC

Free tutoring available to students who fail the University Writing test. Info: 848-2320.

Term Papers and written assignments? We can help you get started, organize ideas, identify problem areas. Counselling & Development: 848-3545.

HEALTH

Women and safer sex: A series of two-hour workshops to explore some of the issues that affect our choices about safer sex, including self-esteem, sexuality, and body image. Info: 848-7431.

Non-Nominal HIV Testing. The request for the test as well as the result are known only to your doctor. Info: Health Services, 848-3565, 848-3575.

Circumcision Info-Resource Centre provides information regarding non-religious circumcision & non-surgical foreskin restoration. Info: 848-9761.

GENERAL

Meals On Wheels Program is seeking volunteers to assist in preparing and delivering home cooked meals for seniors living independently at home. Info: Rona 937-9471, ext. 155.

Yellow Door Elderly Project needs volunteers to accompany séniors to appointments and for dog walking in the McGill Ghetto. Info: 398-6243.

Divers Cité, Montreal's annual lesbian & gay pride festival,which is taking pace August 2nd to 4th this summer, is producing a written programme to highlight this year's events. Anyone interested in contributing articles between 250 and 500 words should contact us at 285-4011.

Compeer Montreal, a community service which provides friendship and support to people with mental health problems, is recruiting volunteers 18 years or older to provide re-integration services to persons with mental illnesses. Info: 489-1007.

Tel-Aide needs volunteers to staff its telephone crisis line for people in distress. The line operates 24 hours a day, lending a sympathetic ear to Montrealers who are lonely, abused, out of work, emotionally scarred or suicidal. Info: 935-1105.

Outreach Experience: participants will work with children, teens, the poor or the sick. The activity and amount of time will depend on your interests and abilities. Information: Michelina Bertone SSA, 848-3591.

STUDENT CLUBS

Indigenous Peoples International, a native solidarity group on campus meets every Wednesday, 7 pm, P-203. Info: 848-7443.

Concordia Queer Collective holds weekly meetings on Fridays at 5:30 pm in P-102. Information: 848-7414.

Concordia Chemistry & Biochemistry Students Assoc. is back and invites students to take advantage of its many new services. 2020 Mackay,Rm. 306 or call 848-7417.

Latin American Students Organization invites all interested students to visit their offices. 2010 Mackay, Rm. 02. Info: 848-3532.

International Socialists Students' Association: If you'd like to become a member, or want information about meetings, actions, etc. Contact: 521-1983.

Concordia Outdoors Club's new office hours are Fridays between 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm.

Extra-rated Radio Show seeks spoken word/ poetry/ opinion submissions to read on air. Please drop them off at the station addressed to Rae. Information: 931-1880, 933-1418. No limits.

Ham Radio Meetings every Tuesday. Personal two-way radio, television, UHF/VHF, satellite and computer communications by ham radio. All Welcome. 7 to 9 pm, H-644-1. Info: 848-7421

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Greenhouse effect still in effect:

United Nations climate change convention starts today

by Heidi Modro

BERLIN—The news headlines are full of them: mass floodings in Europe, blazing forest fires in California and record periods of drought in Africa.

Closer to home meteorologists are puzzled at Montreal's warmer than usual winter temperatures and an avalanche three weeks ago which killed two in Northern Quebec.

For the past fifteen years, scientists have been linking the increasing occurrence of freak weather disasters around the globe to the problem of global warming.

Yet while the earth's temperature continues to warm, most of the world leaders at the United Nations Climate Change Convention in Berlin starting today are expected to cool down on demands to head off the threat of dramatic climate change.

For the past fifteen years, scientists have been linking the increasing occurrence of freak weather disasters around the globe to the problem of global warming.

Many environmentalists are even speaking of having to now battle a "greenhouse backlash," a new reactionary trend which has developed among governments, the public and the media which have become at one end skeptical and at the other hostile to acknowledging the urgency of global warming.

It wasn't always so.

Failure at Rio Summit

With mounting scientific evidence and public opinion pressure from their domestic electorates, world governments at the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro sounded the alarm to an upcoming global warming catastrophe. More than 175 countries signed an agreement to stabilize carbon dioxide emissions which have been linked to global warming.

But under pressure from the American delegation, which threatened to walk out, the national representatives at the Summit did not establish restriction standards, nor did they agree on funding global anti-warming projects.

The world leaders did, however, promise to meet three years later to review the success of their individual efforts and to present a national plan of action which would carry them past the year 2000.

Most industrialized nations have since failed to reduce emissions, and have not even prepared to present a comprehensive policy for the convention. European countries, which do not have a petroleum extracting industry putting pressure on them, have fared better than Canada and the US. But not by much.

Most European nations are still calling for cuts, but have not for the most part progressed further than mere rhetoric. France and Italy have decided to stabilize emissions per capita, allowing them to increase emissions as their population grows.

Portugal, Spain and Ireland are simply ignoring their commitments. Germany, which has inadvertently seen its CO2 emissions decrease by eight per cent because of the collapsing of the former GDR's coal-based economy, has decided to use a longer base year which will allow for greater latitude in monitoring the environment.

"Most industrialized nations are turning this conference into a joke because of the lack of seriousness with which they have approached the issue of global warming," said Christopher Flavin from Washington's Worldwide Institute. "None of the big industrialized countries have fared well in their attempts to find solutions."

Canada's pitiful record

Independent of other nations, former-Prime Minister Brian Mulroney pledged that Canada would reduce, through industry regulation, fossil fuel emissions by 20 per cent by the year 2000.

In the three years that have lapsed, Canada has not only backed down from its original promise, but has quietly resigned itself to the fact that the country's fossil fuel emissions will probably increase by at least 13 per cent by the end of the century.

The Chrétien government has chosen to present a loosely defined plan consisting of a voluntary action programme for industry and a joint-action policy which would give tax credits to Canadian companies involved in environmental projects in Third World Nations.

There has been a call for bringing carbon dioxide emissions to the 1990 level by 2005, but most observers believe that that requirement is likely to be quietly shelved aside once the negotiations get under way.

The criticism from Canadian environmental groups is unequivocal.

"I'm ashamed of our position," said Louise Comeau from Ottawa's Sierra Club. "We're the second largest producer of carbon dioxide emissions in the world and we're completely unwilling to change anything about it."

A new unlikely player has made its way on the environmental protection scene: namely the worldwide insurance industry which has lost billions in pay-out settlements due to 'natural' weather disasters.

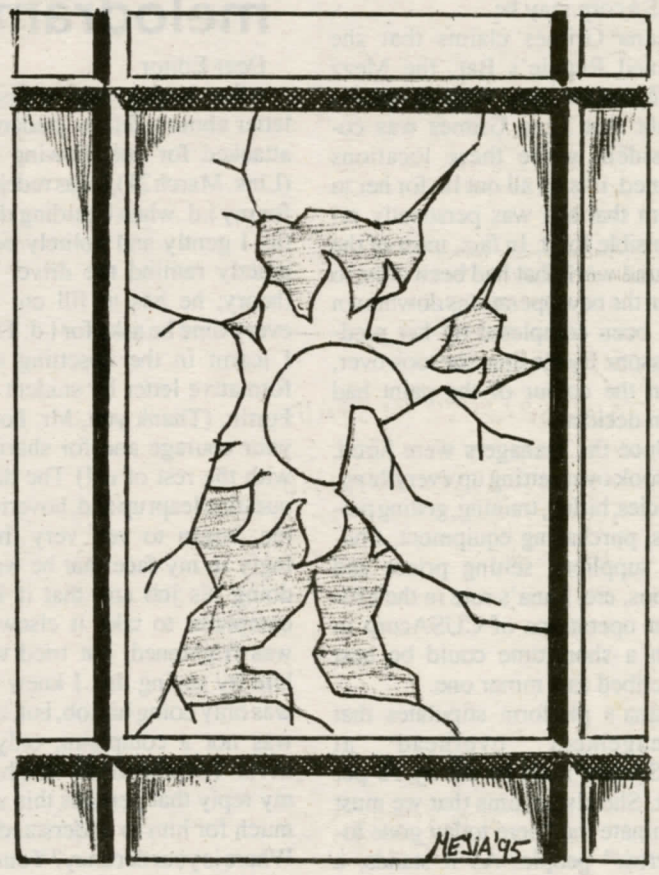
Comeau believes that the only solution to global warming lies in reining in the fossil fuel industry through stringent regulation of emissions and heavy taxation of petrol. An immediate commitment to promote energy efficiency and alternative sources of energy such as solar power are the next step.

Comeau hasn't had it easy in the months leading up to the conference. The battle has been an uphill one for her and other environmentalists who have witnessed an intense lobbying campaign by Alberta's oil industry to sabotage every attempt at drawing up an effective plan in the battle against the greenhouse effect.

"It was incredible over the past few months," she said. "They have, through the media, at every meeting, done everything to halt progress by claiming that Canadians will lose jobs and our scientific data is not valid."

Representatives from the leading fossil fuel industries are expected to lobby en masse at the conference. Yet they can no longer count on the overwhelming support from the rest of the business world as they once did.

A new unlikely player has made its way on the environmental protection scene: namely the $1.4 trillion worldwide insurance industry. Germany's Munichre and the Swiss-Re insurance companies will be among the most vociferous at the conference in demanding on the plenary floor for tougher greenhouse gas emission restrictions.



graphic by James Mejia

Avoiding Disaster

The reason: European and American insurance companies have lost billions in pay-out settlements due to "natural" weather disasters such as the recent floodings in northwestern Europe, hurricanes in the Caribbean and southern Florida and crop disasters in traditional North American wheat-growing regions.

Traditionally relegated to the sidelines by the G7 countries at environmental conferences, developing nations are another force to be reckoned with. Most estimate that climate change will effect them doubly hard as they do not have the first-aid medical and financial infrastructure to help them fight climate disasters, such as drought and stroms.

Countries such as Bangladesh, threatened alternately by drought and cyclones, as well as 35 small South Pacific Island states which fear rising seas and tidal waves could soon wipe them out, are planning to place themselves at the forefront of the conference with their own information sessions, and even demonstrations to demand an immediate 20 per cent decrease of fossil fuel gases.

"We are predicting apocalyptical conditions in Bangladesh," said Atiq Rahman, director of Bangladesh's Institute for Advanced Studies. "We expect to lose one quarter of our arable land while one-third of our population will be displaced. We know that the next climate catastrophe will also bring epidemics and a massive death toll. We have no choice but to boldly demand what everyone else is afraid to ask for."

But how much of a voice and how much success will the pro-environment sector have in the end? With a distinct lack of political will on the part of industrial nations to face the issues at hand and the ever-present watchful eye on the petroleum and coal industry representatives, most expect very little and are already tacitly accepting defeat. Environmentalists are turning their attention to the 1997 United Nations Climate Conference in Tokyo and are hoping in the meanwhile to build-up a movement which will carry the same weight as it did in the late 1980s.

Dedication this cheap doesn't come easy: the Link

The Link welcomes letters to the editor. We are committed to printing all letters which are not racist, sexist or homophobic and are signed. Letters should include a telephone number, be typed and 400 words or less. We reserve the right to edit for length and clarity. Anonymity can be arranged with the editor.

Open letter to Me. Gaudet

Dear Me. Gaudet

We are very concerned by the comments made by Dr. McNicoll regarding the issue of tuition fee increases, income contingent loan repayment plan (ICLRP), student voting on hiring committees, and voting on other unidentified issues. We object to the probable hiring of a rector who wants to exclude students from the decision-making processes in the university, especially when the tendency is towards inclusion.

We are led to believe that Dr. McNicoll favours increasing tuition fees so that students contribute their "fair share", a position she maintained when she was president of CREPUQ. We request that the other candidates' positions on this very important issue be made public.

We oppose the idea that students should carry a burden caused by mismanagement and government policies that serve the more privileged. We oppose ICLRP because it will mean that groups who traditionally earn less (women and other minorities) will end up paying considerably more for their education.

We believe that student voting on hiring committees is part of a democratic process in any university. We believe that students should have the right to fully participate in the decision-making process within the university.

On behalf of the Concordia Action Committee

Ken McMurray

CUSAcorp Reply

Dear Editor

This is regarding some inaccuracies that have been printed regarding CUSAcorp. The first is an article in the March 24th issue of *The Link* stating that CUSAcorp spends over $270,000 on administrative salaries. In fact, CUSAcorp would spend $101,000 on management salaries if management was to work 12 months out of the year. However, management is always laid off for the one month during Christmas and for several months during the summer, bringing the actual expense to a maximum of $70,000 per year.

Another inaccuracy about this point appears in Lana Grimes' platform where she states that managers earn over $80,000 per year. Since the information would be much more readily available to a vice-president of the Concordia Student Union than any other student in the university, one wonders how accurate any of her statements regarding CUSAcorp may be.

Lana Grimes claims that she opened Reggie's Bar, the Mezz Café, and the Hive. While it is not in doubt that Lana Grimes was co-president while these locations opened, it is an all out lie for her to claim that she was personally responsible for it. In fact, most of the ground work that had been done to open the new operations downtown had been completed by her predecessors. By the time she took over, even the colour of the paint had been decided.

Once the managers were hired, we took over setting up everything: policies, hiring, training, getting permits, purchasing equipment, finding suppliers, setting prices and menus, etc. Lana's role in the efficient operations of CUSAcorp in such a short time could be best described as a minor one.

Lana's platform stipulates that management overhead at CUSAcorp must be cut by 50 per cent. She also claims that we must eliminate the "here today gone tomorrow" people. As it stands, a manager now makes between $7.75 and $9.75 per hour. To reduce this would mean getting paid less than $5 per hour to run the million-dollar-a-year corporation! The fact that she thinks that you can attract a high-quality, long-term management team at less than minimum wage would be laughable if not pathetic. Hopefully the Concordia student population will be looking for somebody not so naive to be its leader.

Paul O'Connor
General Manager
CUSAcorp

Rhino Speaks

Dear Link

I find it interesting that on the same page as you lament the lack of interest in the Council of Representatives (*The Link*, March 24), you inform your readers that you could not find space for the Council candidates' platforms that you received. As well, while your editorial does refer to "geeky student journalists" who attend Council meetings, you neglect to point out that these are rarely from *The Link*.

If *The Link* does not consider Council important enough to cover its meetings or publish its candidates' platforms, why bother with an editorial about how important it is?

Al Rhino Feldman
Representative — Arts & Sciences

Shuttle bus melodrama

Dear Editor

After having read a disturbing letter about a fellow student being attacked for not showing his i.d. (Link, March 21), I was rudely asked for my i.d. when boarding the shuttle. I gently and politely began to quietly remind the driver that in theory, he has to fill out a form every time he asks for i.d. This **fact** I learnt in the upsetting and informative letter by student Robert Fortin. (Thank you, Mr. Fortin for your courage and for sharing this with the rest of us!) The driver in question leapt up and, hovering over me, began to yell very threateningly in my face that he was only doing his job and that if I had a complaint to take it elsewhere. I was frightened, but tried to calm him by saying that I knew that he was only doing his job, but, that this was not a complaint, only some trivia. To the students who hissed at my reply that perhaps this was too much for him to understand, I ask: Where is your decency? Your bleeding hearts are misdirected and badly informed! You found no discrepancy between my cautious and pacifying tone and the drivers' physically threatening presence over me as he shouted? You were offending the offensive party! Perhaps you are the type of people who would turn away if someone was mugged in front of you. Or maybe more students should get mashed over this i.d. business for you to wake up? All I was getting at, is that, since showing our i.d. is not a **law**, we are being *accommodating* by presenting it and should be asked for it with **courtesy and patience**. Is this too much to ask? Drivers of all kind in the transportation business are expected to be polite with the public — why should we get any less? It is indeed "illegal power grab" as Mr. Fortin said. I am certain that I, nor any other student, do not deserve to be scared by a rude driver who seems to hate students and his job. Even worse, is that you people who hissed at me, joined in victimizing the victim. Mr. Fortin, you were right — and I commend you for not letting this issue die, for I fear that more ugly incidents are just waiting to happen.

Christine Atallah

Comment

by Florian Hehlen

Improvements in telecommunication over the last 30 years have fostered a social and cultural revolution matched only by the introduction of the printing press over five centuries ago.

As the computer slowly overtakes other communication devices (visual arts, literature, phone, fax, TV, Internet, etc.), it is slowly becoming the instrument of the coming revolution.

It's effects can already be seen in cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco where telecommuting (using fax, modem, phone, etc. to communicate with your work rather than your car) is being implemented.

This is a positive prospect for companies, who see the possibility of extensively reducing their fixed costs in the long run, and for the individual. For single parents working from home it means they can raise their children and have a career. They can also spend more time participating in their own communities since they won't waste time commuting to and from work.

This is all part of the process of evolution the city has undergone in the last 300 years.

The first major transformation of our cities occurred in the 1830's, when the steam engine was refined. It almost single-handedly made the industrial revolution a possibility, transforming the city from a merchant's market to a capitalist mass-production center; leading to the unprecedented growth of the city.

The telephone and the telegraph, also products of the late 1800's, shortened communication time and allowed for greater migration into urban areas. By the early 1900's densely populated cities, with their many streetcar lines and industrial complexes, were bursting at the seams.

The invention of the car made it possible for the rich and upwardly mobile to move away from their workplace and experience the green of nature, instead of the black of city chimneys. But this expansion eventually led to the destruction of the most fertile farming lands of North America, leaving in its place a patchwork of bungalows, mini-marts, and malls.

By the 2020s, according to some estimates, 80% of the world's population will be living in cities. We can already observe the rapid congestion of city centers on the eastern coast of the U.S., between Boston and Washington.

These giant urban complexes, fostered by the convenience of the steam engine, telephone, and automobile, present a whole array of problems, which in many ways compare, on a larger scale, to the problems the city experienced a hundred years ago.

But it is too simple to blame the technologies alone, users are also at fault.

So how do we make it work...

We must remain critical yet open-minded about technology; especially in this day and age, when corporate powers are imposing their vision of the future. Only if we learn to master the machine and its processes will we be able to use the computer wisely.

Communication is about community and whether it is on the phone, in a cafe, or on the Internet, it retains primary value.

The other day I got a virtual trailer in a virtual trailer park on the Internet. It is a virtual community with a sense of place and belonging, where we all have our own trailer.

Today's Internet isn't a very concrete world, but it will become more visual and virtually-real. People will have to learn to live with it because it's not going to go away, and it may fall into the wrong hands.

Internet can be a consumer medium whose sole purpose is to crank out dollars, but it can also be a library, a community resource center, or a public park. The fear is that what is today a main-street-public-place will be snuffed out and replaced by a private*ly-owned-artificialy-controlled-mall.*

If we stand our ground and learn to control this technology, then maybe it can become, like the printing press, a technology that changed the world in a good way

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culture

Not all it's cracked up to be

Cyberspace — the final frontier.

That's how the media has hyped what's now perceived as the biggest technological revolution since the lightbulb.

Internet and virtual reality are the latest media darlings; the computer and modem exalted as the creators of a new digital space; our heros christened as cyber-punks/poets/gurus.

A large part of the appeal of the internet and the notion of cyberspace lies in our desire for something new and exciting. Cyberspace and virtual reality, as far as the literature describes it, could catapult the present into a sci-fi future where we may all don body suits and engage in liquid simulations of sex with anonymous strangers out in cyberspace.

The way the hype has brought technology and its possible impact on human interaction, and so culture, to the forefront of the public mind, you'd think the creation of the internet is the only role it's played as of late in our lives. But in our rush to revolutionize human interaction and establish a new public space, we've ignored a few salient facts.

One is very simply that technology is never implemented as quickly or to the extent that we imagine it will be. The death of print has long been predicted in the face of electronic media: it has yet to happen.

Also, since we get use to new technology so rapidly it loses its novelty quickly, becoming just another facet of our existence. Bank machines hardly generate the same excitement they did when TD hit the market with the Green Machine.

We already live in a science fiction movie as far as our grandparents or parents are concerned, but we're unaware of technology's impact on our lives because it has become so banal.

So we cling to the vision of new communities, created through the matrix of phone wires, because it's far more exciting than the reality of technology's role in our society.

Technology is not just about machines, computers, modems, TVs and telephones. Its functions and applications extend far beyond simulating sterility, transporting bodies or creating non-corporeal societies.

Every aspect of our lives is mediated by technology, there is no getting back to nature. Most of us wouldn't even be able to recognize what's natural; we mistake the manicured lawns of suburbia and pockets of greenery for nature.

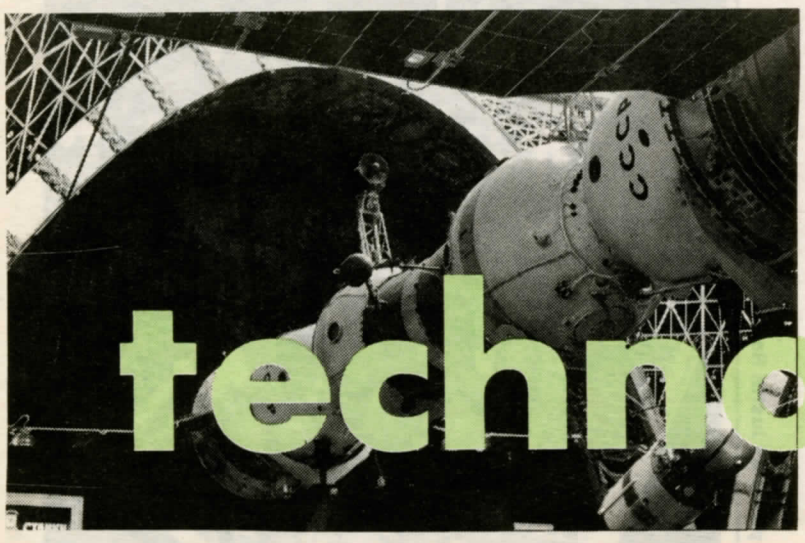
Technology has seeped into the body; pacing and regulating the heart, sculpting breasts, lifting faces, inducing barrenness, exchanging fluids and organs without a second thought.

Technology has polluted the stratosphere, warmed the globe, frozen the foundations of life, and created the miracle of life in a petri dish.

In the 50s technology was viewed as the great saviour destined to improve the lot of humanity. In the 90s we've become slave to it as its latest applications enhance not our public lives but our private lives. The latest technology is often geared towards filling our leisure time; increasing our alienation from others as it becomes possible to work and play entirely from our homes.

The reality is that technology's effects are far more subtle than the media conveys. It plays an integral role in shaping our perceptions and our way of life. But it insidiously permeates our vision, infiltrates our bodies, suffuses our language and constructs our thoughts, and we never really notice.

—G. Napier



techno

Free for all?

by Michael Boyle

The recent growth of cyberspace has everyone, from philosophers and politicians to musicians and schoolchildren, climbing over one another to get online and join the scientists and engineers who have been there all along.

In the United States, Newt Gingrich has proposed his Magna Carta for cyberspace. The Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility are sponsoring a group to define cyber-rights and produce a document that will be as durable as the Rights of Man [sic] or the American Bill of Rights, meanwhile the Electronic Frontier Foundation is an extremely well connected lobby group in Washington.

Basically everyone is trying to figure out just what the internet will mean to us, and they are going to great lengths to put forward their own agendas.

What they all neglect to adequately address is that access to the world's only working anarchy is still largely reserved for those with the financial resources to jack in to the system.

Educational access is important, but its significance is quickly being usurped by commercial access which is expensive, as anyone who logs into a SLIP provider or America Online will tell you.

More and more it looks like the anarchy is becoming the world's largest suburb, with all of the dehumanizing strip malls, porn shops and two-car garages that go along with the 'burbs. It's just as likely, in 1995, that the info-highway will be the repressed domain of Eisner, MTV and CNN as it will be the bastion of a new worldwide democracy.

This is where Freenets enter the picture. Canada, as a leading force in the freenet world, is playing an important role in rendering these networks truly accessible to an audience that would otherwise not be capable, either financially or technically, of taking part in the "communications revolution." And it isn't policy makers or lawyers who are building freenets—it is local activists.

There are currently 13 freenets in Canada, in cities ranging from Toronto and Calgary to Whistler, Squamish and Pemberton in BC. The National Capital Freenet in Ottawa is the second largest freenet in the world. Boasting over 35 000 members it is second only to the original freenet in Cleveland, and it is taking a lead role in organizing and defining the freenet movement in North America and worldwide.

In Montreal, Libertel Montreal is slated to open this spring, after several delays, and expects 50 000 members in its first year of operation.

Libertels (freenets) increase the accessibility of the info-highway by offering free dialup accounts to anyone who want one and, more importantly, by providing access to the system through public access terminals located in libraries and community centers.

Ottawa's Freenet's been so successful that in its recent online elections one of the candidates for the Board of Directors, Daniel C. Gallant, was a former welfare recipient who used the system to educate himself about networks. Gallant developed an interesting vision of what freenets can mean both to a community and to the network itself, summing it up succinctly when he wrote, "The real idea behind FreeNets, I think, should be to FREE THE NET."

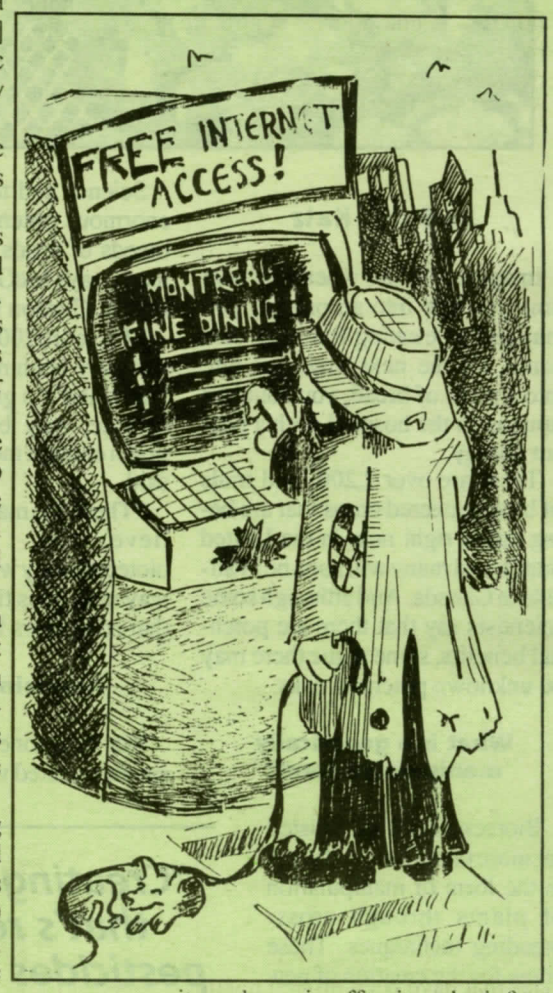
Freeing the 'net means not only freeing it from corporate interests. Most of the funding for freenets comes from donations, not from government grants. And almost all of the people who do the technical work and the organizing are volunteers.

Libertel Montreal estimates that the value of its volunteered time amounts to over $300 000 and it hasn't even opened yet. Unfortunately the government, as in the case of Ottawa's freenet, has refused to grant it charity status that would allow it to issue tax receipts to donors.

In Quebec, the government has a $50 million fund to assist in the development of the information highway, but as of yet hasn't given any commitment to Libertel Montreal, while Videotron has been given a grant of $5 million. Consequently, Libertel Montreal has delayed its opening several times, even though it has an impressive list of donors, volunteers and information providers.

If the potential of the internet and its embryonic offspring, the information superhighway, are to be realized they must be available not only to computer whizzes and those rich enough to buy the most advanced, easiest to use software. Rather, they should be available to anyone who wants to wishes to use them. Without freenets this would be impossible in communities across Canada.

The democratic potential of the information superhighway is just a platitude if it is not accessible. The tangible benefit of Libertels is that they provide access now to anyone who wants it, at no cost. The long-term benefit may be they provide access to a network that is starting to be taken for granted. Access that public pressure will force to be maintained in any future system that arises to take its place.



graphic by Jonathan deSwaaf

Not from the Garden of Eden

Genetically adapted food bigger! tastier! ... and safe?

photo by Justin Rochefort

by Shira Katz

Imagine a future where the next time you bite into an orange, you may really be eating fruit with cow genes. Or the next time you bite into a piece of bread, you could be running to the hospital with a peanut allergy.

There are over 2,200 field trials of bioengineered crops that are being tested right now in the United States, and many will soon be available in Canada. And although some scientists say that there are potential benefits, some argue there may be unknown potential risks.

What is a genetically manipulated food?

Biotechnology has existed for more than a hundred years in the form of manipulation of plants through cross-breeding techniques. These allow for the creation of new breeds of plants by saving the seeds and replanting the ones they like.

However, the genetically manipulated plant is a relatively new phenomenon. A gene, which is a set of instructions from one living matter's DNA, can now be isolated and re-inserted into another living matter's DNA.

For example, a fish gene which protects against freezing temperatures could be inserted into a plant, allowing it to be grown and cultivated in cooler climates.

Some examples of potential benefits of genetic engineering of plants may include better taste, less cholesterol, and foods that can withstand droughts. Longer shelf life and faster production are also potential benefits, with the potential to feed more people.

Science and technology has the enormous potential to create new breeds of foods controlled by humans, says McGill biology professor Dr. Gordon Maclachlan.

"There are 2000 transgenic plants that have been made in the United States and it's growing at a fantastic rate. Any biotechnology lab, given enough money, can do it," he said.

"There are many people who believe the techniques of biotechnology will revolutionize the way man does things to the degree that computers have."

Assessing the risks

Not everyone thinks the future can be injected with a gene to make it more rosy.

> *"Creating a vegetable that's resistant to pesticides is a band-aid approach. They're trying to fix the problems that they've created,"*

Many are concerned that genes which create allergic reactions in some will be transferred to new foods.

"You may successfully transfer a gene that you want but it may carry along with it genetic material that you don't want to reproduce," said Dr. Gordon Maclachlan, a biology professor at McGill.

When an amino acid called methionine found in Brazil nuts was inserted into soybeans and sold in Asian countries, some people were allergic to the new soybean.

The Pioneer Grain Company intended to increase the overall protein value of the soybean by isolating and injecting one of the nut's genes responsible for protein. But their failure to isolate it properly resulted in the inclusion of another gene which creates the allergic reaction.

One potential problem is the development of herbicide-resistant plants which may accidentally improve the resistance of weeds around them. The wind can blow pollen from the plant onto surrounding areas, cross-pollinating them and developing more resilient weeds.

However, Nathalie St-Pierre, Coordinator of Concordia's Quebec Public Interest Research Group (QPIRG), questions the need for pesticide use in the first place, instead favouring organic farming approaches.

"Creating a vegetable that's resistant to pesticides is a band-aid approach. They're trying to fix the problems that they've created," she said.

Stringent testing regulations

Despite opposition and public concern, the only protection consumers can hope for is strict regulation.

Joyce Byrne, assistant director of the Biotechnology Strategies and Coordination Office of Canada said that companies here have to apply for a permit to test their crops in the field.

There are strict regulations that have to be followed. The process from product idea to market acceptance can take at least ten years.

"Other countries are not as cautious as Canada, the United States and Britain in regulation," said Maclachlan. "Companies can take the [unregulated] product and sell it in those countries."

He added that after regulation, there will always be a potential risk. "Unexpected side effects can happen," he said.

In the case of allergies, Byrne said Canada is especially cautious.

"Certainly if there was a trait that we knew was a potential allergy to people we would not release it and the same with Health Canada which would also look at it," she said.

Consumers' right to know

Though some companies will volunteer information about their product, there are no labelling laws in Canada for genetically engineered food.

"For labelling, there is no system now to check the validation of labels," explained Jason Flint, Programs Manager at the Canadian Institute of Biotechnology. "We don't have any technology to test the final product," he added.

He added that in the United States, ten genetically engineered crops have been approved to date. Canola is in the process of creating two plants which are herbicide-resistant, and may be released in Canada later this year.

But because labelling isn't mandatory, consumers may not realize they are using a genetically manipulated product.

"We feel that the consumers' right to be informed has to be respected," said Nathalie St-Pierre from QPIRG.

"All products from genetically manipulated products should be labelled. But of course the first thing should be that we don't want these products there on the shelves," she said.

And although the Calgene tomato will be the first genetically manipulated food to hit Canadian markets, the technology is growing and we might see an explosion of these type of products in the future. There are over 2,200 field trials of bioengineered crops that are being tested right now in the United States.

Cows on Crack?

Will milk in the future still do a body good?

A petition has been started by QPIRG in opposition to Bovine Growth Hormone, a hormone produced from a genetically modified bacteria. The hormone can artificially increase a cow's milk production by 10 to 25%, according to the Fédération des Associations de Consommateurs du Québec (FNACQ).

But some of the risks include potential illnesses in animals and diabetic people who might be affected as well. The technology has already been regulated in the United States.

The products there are not labelled as such. If you visit the States and buy a milk product there you may unknowingly be swallowing a genetically manipulated product.

In Canada, a moratorium which lasts until July is preventing two companies from bringing it to market.

"We're asking the government to extend the moratorium permanently," said St-Pierre of QPIRG. "If not, we're asking for the proper labelling of all biotechnology products."

photo by Justin Rochefort

Labour of love:

More women turning to midwives

By Deana Beltsis

Cynthia Jordonson, a grade school teacher from Toronto, had her second cahild four months ago. She didn't call a doctor. Instead two midwives came to her home and delivered her six pound, seven-ounce baby girl.

"Everything was done my way," she said. "It's important for every woman to have the freedom to choose how they want the birth of their child to take place.

Jordonson is one of many Canadian women choosing midwife assistance for child birth.

"The supervision of childbirth is an area of medicine exclusively theirs(midwives) by tradition." Jordonson said, "For centuries women worked as midwives. Who better to know the needs of woman than another trained woman."

Amy Bylial, a resident of Edmonton and a full time mother, is also a firm believer in the assistance of midwives during the birthing process.

"Clarissa is my first child," she said, "I wanted everything to run perfectly. I was in labor for quite a while and I'm sure doctor's would have wanted to induce. Instead there were no forceps used. Everything was natural."

Women who choose this method of childbirth like that they retain complete control of the experience and that care is continued after the child has been born.

Peggy Cannon was the first midwife in Canada to deliver a baby in a hospital room without doctor's assistance. She has been a licensed midwife for over four years. "I defiantly like what I do." She said, "Not only are more women choosing midwives to help in the birth of their child, but more and more women are choosing midwifery as an occupation. New programs are being introduced everywhere. People are finally realizing how important it is for women to have all their needs looked after naturally. After all, the birthing process is the most natural function in a woman life."

"The people who come to us want more choices in where to give birth," Cannon said, "They want to have more control in the decision making process. They really appreciate the amount of time we spend with them before, during and after the birth."

Cannon is a midwife at the Durham Community Midwifery Services in Ajax, Ontario. According to Cannon women can now also refuse the fetal monitor, allow as many people as they want to attend the birth, drink or eat what they want, or birth in the position of their choice.

"Technology is growing at a steady pace." Cannon said. "It's only recently that women are beginning to realize how important naturalizing the birthing process is."

The process consist of pre-natal visits, home visits before and after birth as well as being available 24 hours a day. "We get to know exactly what the woman's needs are." Cannon said. "We spend many hours with each woman and her family. It's what makes the difference between doctors and midwives."

According to Cannon many family doctors no longer deliver babies, instead they refer women to an obstetrician in the latter months of the pregnancy. Because most doctors belong to group practices, women often have never met the doctor that delivered their baby.

"The midwives were with us all the way," Bylial said. "It was wonderful to see the happiness in everyone's eyes. From beginning to end everything was so personable. I couldn't imagine seeing faces I didn't know."

Women now have the right to choose where to have their child. In a hospital, at home, or, just recently, in birthing centers.

Cannon says, "For years it was the midwives who were the caregivers in home births. But more women who choose a hospital birth want our support and continuity of care."

Cannon adds that, hospital delivery by midwives is also more cost effective. Intervention usually means costly medical procedures and medication. "The rate of intervention is a lot lower when a midwife has control."

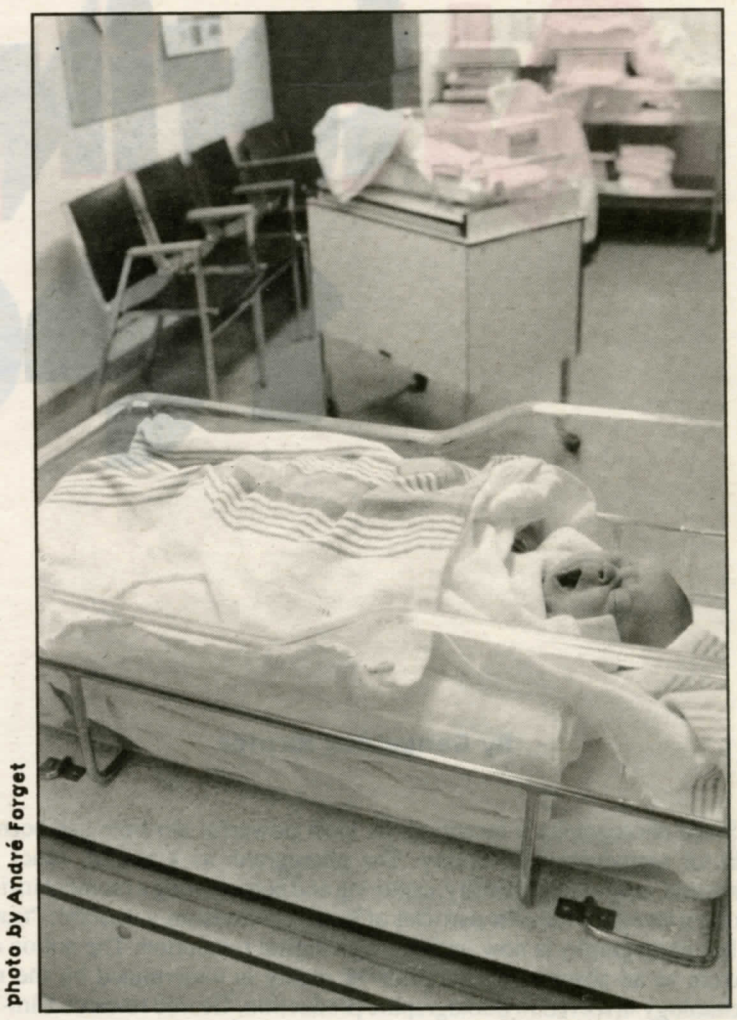


photo by André Forget

Norplant: a question of control

by Geneviève Napier

Despite the reality that many women complain about the pill's side effects and the lack of any other viable means of preventing pregnancy, contraceptive research today continues to focus primarily on hormonal birth control for women.

Contraception is a big money maker for the pharmaceutical industry especially since it has a captive market. So current research aims to improve on the pill by developing continuous fertilit/ control over long periods of time.

One of the fruits of recent research, which has been approved for use in Canada and the United States, is Norplant.

Approved in Canada just over a year ago, Norplant consists of six silicon rods implanted in a fanlike shape in the woman's inner arm. The implants discharge a steady amount of a synthetic form of progesterin over the course of five years, ensuring hormonally controlled infertility.

Their appeal lies in the fact that they ensure effective, prolonged infertility without having to worry or even think about it.

But, like the pill, they have noxious side effects. In the third world where it was originally tested, some 60 per cent of women wanted to discontinue usage because of the extreme irregularity it caused in their menstrual cycles, according to a two-year study conducted in Indonesia, Finland and Brazil.

Big brother is monitoring you

However, the most dramatic problem with Norplant lies in the question of control. The pill was hailed because it supposedly led to women's liberation (from fertility), but Norplant does not give women control. It gives their doctors control.

The doctor is responsible for administering the treatment and for discontinuing it. Unlike the pill, if a woman decides she doesn't like Norplant, she can't just 'stop taking it.' She is at the mercy of a doctor (probably male) to have it removed.

In the third world the question of removal has become the site of a particularly forboding struggle for power. According to a study, it was proved not uncommon for doctors in the developing world to refuse to remove the implants when women desired to terminate treatment.

"All long action contraception that are provider controlled have the potential for abuse, it's inherent in the method, and with Norplant there is very little control over removal," stated Dr. Shrie Mulay, a clinical biochemist at the Royal Victoria hospital.

Thus, the fear results that Norplant and similar long acting contraceptives, such as Depo-Provera, will become vehicles for social control. Once again it will be women, particularly poor and uneducated women, who are oppressed by the very technology supposedly designed to help them.

Dirt cheap in the Third World

Although the cost of Norplant is about $500.00 in Canada and even more in the States, it is marketed in the third world at a much lower cost: around $23.00 according to Dr. Mulay.

Why is it so expensive in North America? As the manufacturers expect a number of lawsuits, they are making provisions in advance, maintains Dr. Mulay.

But the more revealing question is why is it so cheap in the third world. The push towards long-action hormonal birth control such as Norplant, Depo-Provera (an injection of hormones which lasts several months and is quite harsh on the system), and the Anti-Pregnancy Vaccine (now being tested in India), is linked to the frightening spectre of enforced population control.

Although the implications of this emerging technology are severest in the overcrowded third world, in North America similar applications have been linked to poverty and are defined along racial lines.

In the U.S. Norplant has been used as a condition for probation, and is linked to financial incentives, such as welfare. In Baltimore, Maryland Norplant has been aggressively marketed towards teenaged black girls as a means of curbing the high incidence, and repetitive cycle, of teenage pregnancy.

So far, in Canada, such discrimanatory uses of the new technology have not been reported.

But as far as the National Action Committee on the Status of Women fears that women with disabilities, poor women on welfare, teenagers and women from ethnic minorities may be poorly informed and susceptible to pressure and coercion.

Long term health impact

There are also questions about the long term effect Norplant could have on women's health. The implants "mortgage a woman's health" according to Anne LeBlanc of the Centre de la Santé des Femmes.

Aside from creating disturbances in women's menstrual cycle, Norplant has been linked to headaches and migraines, depression, and an increased incidence of ectopic (tubal) pregnancies. There is also the concern about its effects on breast and uterine cancer.

"It is taking the sledge hammer approach when you take large dollops of hormones and give them to women. The complaints (about Norplant) are disturbing, but not surprising considering how much hormones it introduces into the body," said Dr. Mulay.

Another consideration is for the children of women who took Norplant. According to Dr. Mulay, the hormones in Norplant cross into the mother's milk, thus passing to her baby (if she chooses to breast feed). Thus, there is concern about what this will do the the infant's reproductive system.

Despite the uncertainties and potential for negative side-effects, many women are opting to try Norplant, so they don't have to worry about forgetting to take the pill every morning.

Altering reality

computer image processing

wha
real

By Geneviève Napier

Since photography's inception, its most powerful attribute has been its faithful reproduction of reality. The photograph as a record, exact and authentic, equivalent to reality, capturing and perpetuating a moment in time, fixing it forever within the particles of its silver emulsion, a veritable "truth".

But photography is now undergoing a digital revolution. The notion of a picture as an absolute transcription of reality is undermined by the new technology involved in photographic production. Geared towards film-less photography, advancements in the field allow for an unprecedented capability for seamless manipulation and fakery, all without leaving a trace or an original.

THE EVOLUTION OF PHOTOGRAPHY

Photography evolved along with journalism. Not long after the introduction of George Eastman's Kodak camera, which made photography accessible to the lay person, the invention of half-tone printing allowed for photographic images to become commonplace in newspapers. As Eastman had prophesied the camera quickly became "as necessary to the newspaper correspondent as the pen." And as public interest was stimulated both by the immediacy and the quality of the photos, news photography was labelled the "historian of our time."

After reigning for over 100 years silver halide film, traditionally the backbone of image recording, is now being given a run for its money. Already the digitization of images (hardcopies), via scanners which translate them into digital information, is commonplace, allowing for digital imaging (or image processing), in short, computerized manipulation.

COMPLETELY DIGITALIZED PHOTOGRAPHY

Real digital photography no longer requires film. It is a fully digitized process from beginning to end. These electronic cameras actually take digital images. Instead of being stored as an analog the image is stored on memory chips as digital information, as a series of discrete numbers, which can easily be downloaded onto a computer for image processing.

Digital photography results in a higher quality image than that of regular photography because there's none of the degradation involved in translation from analog to digital. The only step that remains is the output of a hardcopy, that's if the image isn't simply transmitted to a printing plant.

The digital camera signifies not merely the absence of film, but a whole new way of capturing images. The immediate storing of the image, as information in the form of so many picture elements (pixels), distinguishes digital photography as the descendent of traditional photography.

Kodak's Digital Camera System (DCS) represents a breakthrough in still digital cameras because it blends a conventional camera, the Nikon F3, and digital imaging technology to capture images of higher quality.

COMPUTER MANIPULATION

Digital manipulation on a computer is now commonplace in most newsrooms. Hardcopies and even negatives can be scanned into digital form, allowing for modification pixel by pixel. Digital imaging programs such as Photoshop 2.5 and Fotostyler, are used to perform conventional manipulation, such as burning and dodging, color, contrast, and brightness modification. Only it's much faster and less toxic.

Image processing is extremely accessible. The latest software is increasingly user-friendly, far easier than traditional 35mm photography. Anyone can use it. Artists, advertisers, graphic designers, journalists, publishers, and even the police are exploiting the possibilities of image processing.

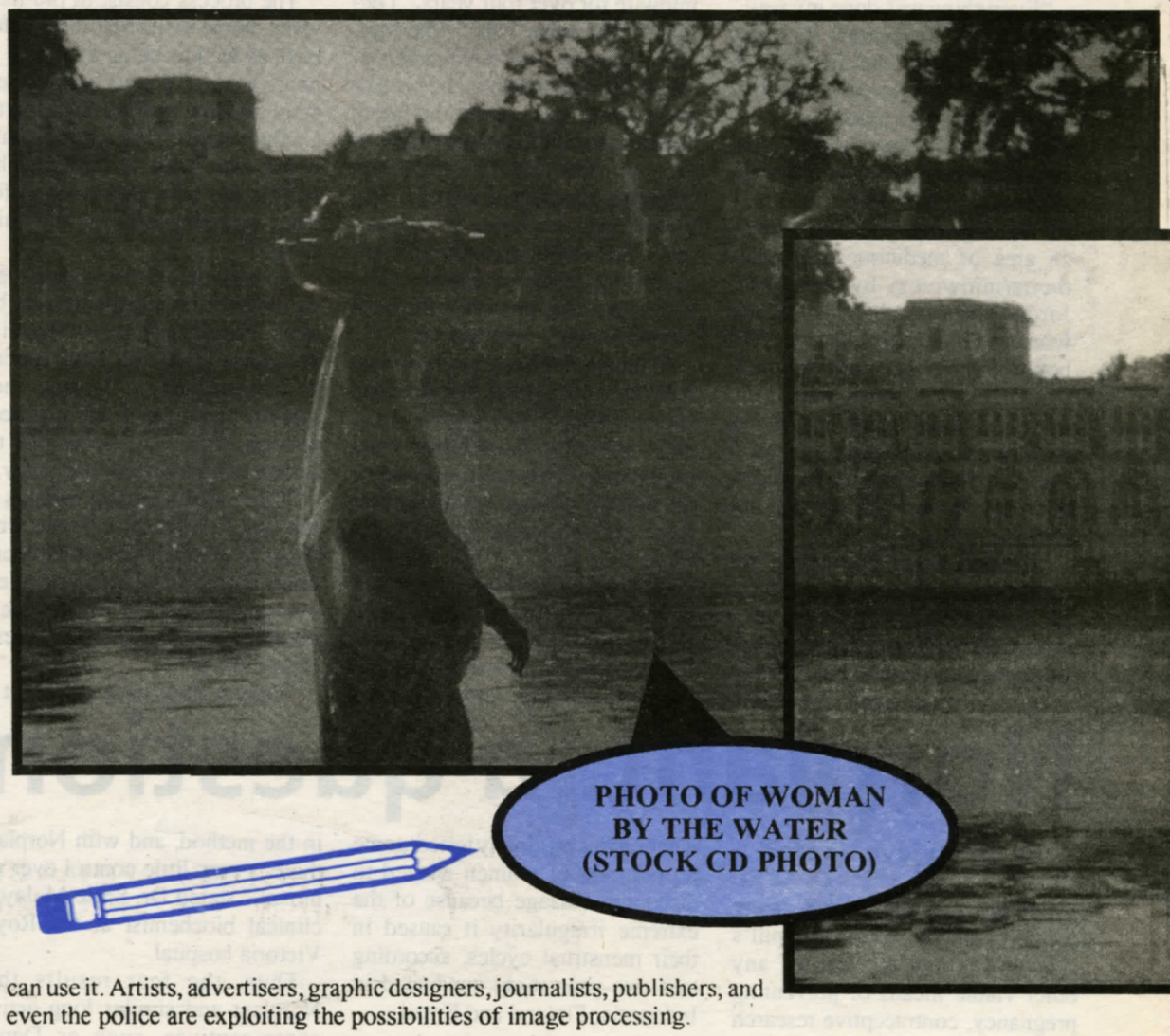


PHOTO OF WOMAN BY THE WATER (STOCK CD PHOTO)

IMPACT ON PHOTOJOURNALISM

However, the impact of the new imaging technology, while it has applications in many fields, is perhaps more pervasive in the field of photojournalism. The new electronic and computer technologies are causing photojournalists to reconsider the nature of the photograph as document, the ethical guidelines of their work and their roles and responsibilities within the news organization.

Innovations pose a problem in terms of control of the image (or simply the data), which engenders both an ethical debate and the need to preserve the photojournalist's status, while safeguarding the credibility of the photograph as a faithful representation of reality.

Of course, for photojournalistic practices, the new technology is a boon, in terms of time and efficiency. Filmless photography can easily be transmitted to an editor and again to the printing plant, requiring no negative, transparency or print. The image merely exists as a virtual image until the printing of the final product, be it a newspaper or a magazine.

But photojournalists must contend with the challenge to the credibility of their craft. The introduction of digital retouching into the photojournalistic field, with the possibility of more extensive manipulation, questions the supposed neutrality that has been photography's claim to integrity. Already courts of law in the United States no longer consider photographs or videos to be admissible evidence because of their potential for manipulation.

Also digital retouching potentially shifts greater control to the production department, whereas previously the photographer's autonomy and authority to alter an image was always stressed within the established convention of photojournalism. But photojournalists are beginning to employ an informal code in dealing with the technology.

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Image and copyright: the ethical dilemma

by Diana Opolski

Marcus Akinlana was commissioned by Honda to create a mural for their magazine ad campaign. When the ad appeared in print, the mural image was cropped and a central figure had been digitally airbrushed, changing the meaning of the artwork entirely. Honda never asked Akinlana for his permission before they digitally altered his mural.

Digital image processing is the tampering and/or altering of an image. Through computer technology, an original photograph can be broken down into pixels and then manipulated in colour and tonal balance. A new image can be built up from elements in the original photograph. Under the Literary and Artistic Property (Copyright) Law, digital image processing, without permission of the artist or photographer, is illegal, though more often than not it goes unpenalized.

In 1990, the United States signed into federal law the Visual Rights Act, which prohibits the alteration, mutilation, or distortion of a piece of art - or the destruction of an artwork of recognized stature - without the artist's approval.

Under Copyright Law, when works are manipulated, they infringe upon the rights of the artist, including their economic rights.

Ysolde Gendreau, professor in UQAM's Faculty of Law, says that this laws "pertains to the right to be recognized as the author of a work and the right to object to use that is prejudicial to the author's honour and reputation."

In France it is illegal to colorize a film without permission of the director

Playboy magazine has made use of the American copyright legislation. It sued an individual for putting the magazine's photographs on a bulletin board on the Internet. *Playboy* won the case, setting a precedent and a standard which it was able to afford financially.

Ysolde Gendreau, professor at UQAM's Faculty of Law, states that "individual artists are not as organized" as corporations to take legal action against copyright infringement. She adds, however, that awareness is growing regarding the problem of the artist's work being tampered with.

In addition, although larger firms (such as *Playboy* and *Walt Disney*), have the financial means to sue over infringement, there is always the risk that the prosecution will lose, even if the case seems to be clearly in their favour. Out of court settlements are often agreed upon as it may not be monetarily sound to go to court for a sum that does not equal court costs.

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glossary of terms

ANALOG - The traditional form of most media information. Vinyl albums, tapes, photographs, and video are forms of analog information. The information coded on the tape or film is analogous to the what was recorded, thereby creating an exact duplicate.

DIGITAL - In this case the information is coded digitally as a series of numbers which must be read and translated by a computer. Digital images, CDs, and digital audio tapes are an example of this type of information coding.

ELECTRONIC (OR DIGITAL) CAMERA - These camera's are equipped with an electronic back which immediately records visual information as a digital code when the picture is taken.

IMAGE PROCESSING - Work, or digital retouching, which can be done pixel by pixel, to an image, in a computer using such software as Photoshop. Images can be fed in either by scanning a hard copy (a print) or a negative or simply by downloading still video images or electronic images. The image manipulation carried out in newsrooms on electronic picture desks is analogous to conventional image manipulation. However, one can easily compromise the integrity of an image by removing or adding objects.

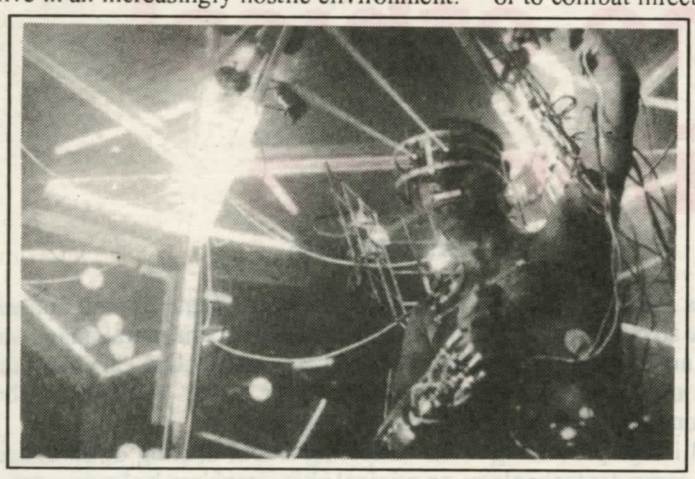
PICTURE ELEMENTS - The information contained in a photograph. Each picture element (pixel) gives information about contrast, color, saturation, etc. The more pixels an image has the better its resolution, for example a traditional 35mm negative and print contains 18 million pixels, thereby creating a rich and dense image. Digitized images tend to lose resolution because not all of the pixels are translated during digital transcription.

SCANNING - The process by which an analog document, an image or sound, is transformed into digital information. A scanner will sample each different area (ie: shadow, hair, etc.) of the photograph and the average for each area will be encoded as a number sequence. The sampling is carried out by scanners which can scan either photographs or negatives.

THE UNBEARABLE LIMITATIONS OF BEING

by Michael Boyle

Many people imagine the future as a Star Trek vision of a world in which computers are an ever-present addition to our limited senses (Jordi's visor comes to mind). In this future, technology will anticipate our every need and augment our bodies so that we may live in an increasingly hostile environment.



But according to Stelarc, an Australian performance artist, human biology cannot and should not be complemented by technology. Rather humans must become technological.

The human body is obsolete says Stelarc. We must move beyond the obvious flaws of the body—sickness, the fragility of the brain, the limits of bodies that are defined only by their limit of our skin.

It sounds like a fantasy, science-fiction by a madman who doesn't know the future any more that you or I. But what Stelarc is talking about is not as strange or as remote as it seems. Researchers are currently investigating the use of nano-bots that could be placed in the body and used to repair, rebuild or re-engineer our physical selves in times of trauma or to combat infection.

This week a Russian cosmonaut returned to Earth after orbiting for longer than anyone else ever has. The cosmonaut was a live human subject in an experiment to find out the long-term effects of technological development on human beings.

We have no firm idea what these effects might be, anymore than we know what all of the chemicals, magnetic fields or electronic gear mean to our carbon bodies.

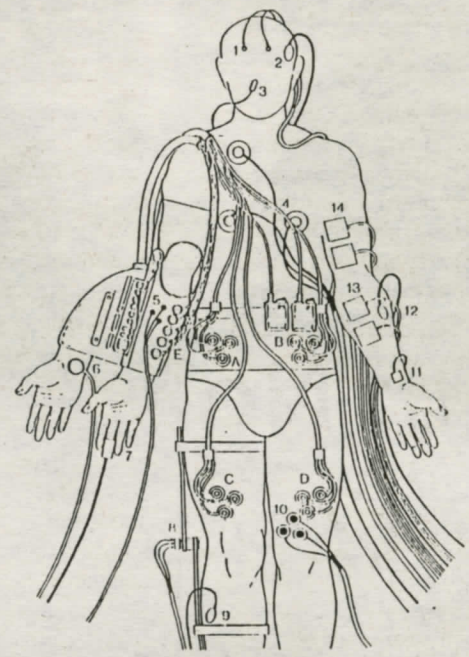
Despite all the scientific research being carried out to understand and mitigate the effects of technology on humanity, we are still in the untenable condition of being lab rats in the late twentieth century.

The ironic feature of Stelarc's work lies in the fact that for all the technological garb in which he dresses his theory and his art, his is not a technological argument but a profoundly philosophical one.

He makes the important point that the skin *used* to be a meaningful boundary but no longer is since the body is now an extensible medium of communication; as the body-art and modern primitive movements also maintain.

That the body isn't well engineered for this role is the overarching principle. But it's not just that the body isn't well engineered for some future world but that it isn't well designed for the realities of today's world.

We must not be afraid to re-engineer the body to make it increasingly extensible. It is not space travel or huge leaps in technology that make Stelarc's ideas worthwhile but the changed human condition at the end of this millennium. Stelarc doesn't respond to some future set of circumstances but to those that exist here and now.

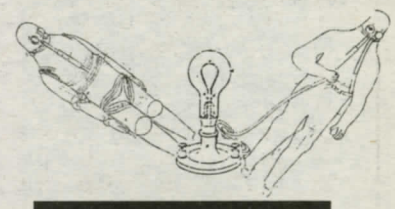


"We must embrace a new species whose bodies will transcend the radical separation of the biological being and more closely approximate the extendedness of the mind."

If bodies are to retain any usefulness at all they too must become adept at projecting themselves beyond the physical. This projection can only occur with a substantial overhaul of the hardware with which humans are born. This means the creation of a new species.

It is this new species that will be able to truly enter cyberspace and outer space. And it is this new species that we are all coming to terms with when we jack in to the 'net, when we ritually scarify, tattoo or pierce ourselves.

It is this new species that will go beyond the limits of biological frailty and extend the possibilities we have already begun to explore.



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RETHINKING RADIO

by Amanda Aronchick

Canada is the most "wired up" country in the world. Railroad tracks and radio towers are the figurative wires that help link our vast geography and small population.

So, radio is important to us. Canadians are known for making good radio. And in a constant effort to keep up with our neighbors to the south, we invest vast sums of money and time into the development of new, better, faster broadcasting technologies.

It follows that we would be at the forefront of developing new radio technologies, and if it's new, it has got to be digital.

What makes digital more enticing then traditional radio is its ability to correct itself, eliminating distortion. A digital signal is either a one or a zero. Given only two possibilities, your home receiver can accurately decode the information without unintentional "noise." This will result in radio having the same clear sound quality of a compact disc.

Three new kinds of radio transmission fall into the category of digital radio. There is cable digital radio, received in the same way as cable TV; CD radio, coming to you via satellite; and Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB), a wireless transmission of digital signals. These three kinds of radio can be used interchangeably. But DAB is the closest to traditional radio because it radiates wirelessly from one point on the ground outwards.

While the quality of the transmission is the biggest advantage of DAB, there are also other benefits. Space is limited on the radio spectrum, the bandwidth that transmits radio signals at a certain frequency. Different signals require different amounts of bandwidth. For example, stations that transmit on the FM signal require 0.25 MHz of bandwidth, whereas AM only needs 0.01 MHz per station.

With the use of data compression, DAB allows for a more efficient use of the radio spectrum. It can broadcast six different signals from one transmitter over less bandwidth. This decreases the cost for individual stations since they can share a transmitter.

But how will digital radio technology affect the existence of pirate radio and smaller community stations? Since DAB broadcasts on a different band from AM and FM, its increased use would free up space on the FM band, which is easily accessible to pirate radio broadcasters who use low-watt transmitters. But for smaller stations, like those serving rural and native communities, the cost of the new digital technology could place out of reach. Without subsidies to help offset the costs, smaller, rural stations could fall victim to digital radio.

photo by Justin Rochefort

Radio on the Net

What if radio were to be available in cyberland and you were to receive audio files from the internet and listen to them through speakers attached to your computer? Are we even able to call this radio?

Canada lays claim to being the first national broadcaster on the internet. The CBC radio project is a joint venture with the Communications Research Centre, a federal research facility under Industry Canada. Determined to bring Canadian content to the rest of the globe, programs such as *Quirks and Quarks*, *Basic Black* and *Sunday Morning* can be accessed through the internet by the public, free of charge.

But in many ways this is still an inaccessible medium. The ability to listen to one's computer is still a privilege granted to those who can afford the technology. Each minute of sound requires half a megabyte worth of storage, so a 30-minute programme becomes 15 megabytes. Even on a fast computer with lots of memory, it still may take over 15 minutes to download.

Plus the computer alone will not grant you access to this aural playground; a modem, a sound card and the appropriate software are also requirements.

The idea of broadcasting local information to a community with a common geography has been central to radio programming and policy making in the past.

But now with internet why would I to talk to my neighbour upstairs with whom I have nothing in common, when I can exchange e-mail with a fellow in Nigeria who shares a passion for pirate feedback transmissions from off the coast of New Guinea.

Ultimately the internet changes the very way we listen to radio. Radio becomes untied from the confines of a schedule. Audiences can tune in whenever they want and listen to programs from yesterday or a month ago.

It's a whole new way of tuning in, you can fast forward it, rewind it or even pause for a pee break.

China 2010: No women left?

by Martin Albert Tsai

"Jade for a baby boy, clay for a girl" runs an old Chinese saying.

The Chinese tradition of favouring males occasionally led to female infanticide in the past, particularly in times of famine. But in the past 15 years, strict family planning regulations and a new technology threaten to create a severe imbalance of the sexes.

Family-planning rules imposed near the end of the 70s limited each couple to having just one or two children. This made parents fearful of "wasting" their quota on a girl, particularly since the authorities began a tough crackdown on unauthorized pregnancies.

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In China of the 1990s, the modern machine that is having most far-reaching effect on society is not the personal computer, the fax or even the car. It is ultrasound scanner. Partly because of the use of ultrasound to check the sex of fetuses, followed by the abortions of females, the sex ratio of newborn children in China has become imbalanced. In one county, residents used ultrasound to determine the sex of 2,316 fetuses, and aborted 1,006 girls, since 1991.

China manufactured its first ultrasound machine in 1979 and by the end of the 80s was making 10,000 annually and importing more than 2,000 each year. One Chinese demographer estimates that 100,000 ultrasound scanners were in place around the country by 1990.

At the same time that ultrasound became common, the sex ratio became increasingly unbalanced at a rate that startled demographers and government officials alike. In the 1953 and 1964 censuses the sex ratio at birth ranged from 103.8 to 104.9 boys for 100 girls - roughly the expected level. In the next census, in 1982, it rose to 113.8 for 100 girls.

Like medical workers in the West, Chinese doctors used ultrasound to look at patients' livers, to check that IUDs are positioned properly and to see whether fetuses are developing healthily. However, for a bribe of $35 to $50 U.S., a doctor will tell whether a woman is pregnant with a boy or a girl. If it's a girl an abortion is likely to be performed, according to Dr. Y.H. Chen.

"Ultrasound is just like nuclear technology," lamented the

continued on page 17

Only diamonds are forever
New technologies takes away permanence of tattoos

by Anuska Garcia

Once upon a time, you had a green mohawk, wore skulls on your boots, and had tattoos from your elbow to your armpits.

But now you've decided it's time for a change.

The hawk goes down, the boots get thrown into the closet, but getting rid of the tattoos is going to be a little more challenging...

photo by Julien Saucier

In the past, the only way to get rid of a tattoo was to cover it up with another one, or have it cut off, resulting in tremendous scarring and pain. Tattoos were considered permanent, and people who got them done wore them like a birthmark, the ritual of recieving one was like a rite of passage into the world of the "other."

But today, new technologies provide us the option to remove a tattoo if we get sick of it, or decide it no longer fits our image. The ritual of receiving a tattoo is no longer open only to those who will perish with the self-designed scar. Tattoos can now be worn like hairdos, and be removed if you have the cash.

The most modern mehod of tattoo removal today is the ruby laser. It diminishes the risk of scarring, but it's expensive and it takes more than one session. The consultation alone can cost about $100, according to a spokesperson at Dermatologists Camirand Dumais. Depending on the tattoo, the process itself can cost between two or three thousand dollars.

Each treatment involves a system that applies a laser beam directly on the tattoo. The laser penetrates the pigment of the tattoo and breaks it up, releasing it from the skin's cells. After several treatments, the tattoo pigment eventually becomes paler and paler, as the old skin cells are replaced.

If the skin tone is dark, a whitish spot may appear but the melanin in the skin will make the spots disappear over time.

Doctors recommend that treatments are four to six weeks apart to ensure that the affected zone will heal and that the body will get used to the changes. It usually takes about a week for the scabs to heal.

continued on page 19

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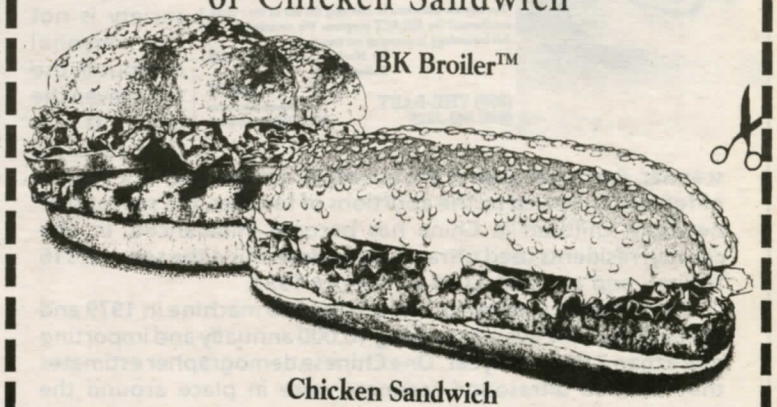

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Lepage comes home

by David King

After a rather bleak off-season in theater, I ventured out on Sunday's cheery afternoon to get my fix by catching Robert Lepage's English version of **Les Aiguilles et l'Opium.** I hadn't realized I would end up coming home feeling like I'd just overdosed.

Lepage, whose visionary and poetic work has revolutionized Canadian theater and touched people all over the world, is renown for continuously upgrading his imagistic work and always striving towards perfection.

His collaboration with Marc Labrèche (TV's *La petite vie*) on **Needles and Opium** is no exception. The multi-media, multi-layered one-man spectacle was first created in 1991, bringing Lepage international acclaim.

With Labrèche on the road since the fall of 1994 in the polished spotlight, the show has moved into a new realm of popularity and flare. That doesn't make **Needles and Opium** a nice cup of tea for a Sunday afternoon. Get ready for quite the opposite; Lepage takes us on a hallucinatory journey not incompatible with an LSD trip. While Labrèche plays a jilted Québecois artist (named *Robèrt*, how subtle) staying at a Parisian heartbreak hotel in 1989, Lepage draws parallels with 1949 during the lives of both jazz musician Miles Davis (yes, a heroin addict) and French writer (and opium addict) Jean Cocteau. Thematically, these two celebrated artists are of great significance for the piece. More importantly they are the subjects of existentialism, reality and fantasy, and the battle between easy escape and cold, harsh truth.

Suddenly, the use of Cocteau's text and Davis' music give the play philosophic and poetic license, in all its essence.

Dealing with three worlds rather than one doesn't make life easy, nor the eyes of the audience. Prepare yourself for a film on stage. From beginning to end, Labrèche spends half of his time hovering over the audience in space, with a background of fantastic images and a vacuum cleaner backdrop that has a life of its own, either flipping Labrèche around or swallowing him whole. Prepare yourself for a light show that literally spirals you into a hallucinatory mind eclipse, bursting with images. And prepare yourself for a stark glimpse of pure and total escapism, Fortunately there are some comic moments, and Labrèche offers only the finest in acting talent.

Yet, the flaw in Lepage's work is that he is, literally, a visionary, and while **Needle and Opium**'s text and words say a lot, nothing on his stage can ever carry the "cri du coeur" that his images can.

Les Aiguilles et l'Opium plays this week only (March 29, 30 , 31, and April 1) at the Monument- National, 1182, blvd St-Laurent. Showtime is at 8PM Call 871-2224 to reserve tickets.

Playin' Bingo with the Rez sisters

by David King

The Concordia Theater Department is gearing up for its mainstage presentation of Tomson Highway's **The Rez Sisters**. Highway, who is writer-in-residence in Concordia's English Department, was the original founder of the Native Earth Arts centre in Toronto, where **Rez** was originally produced as a collective creation. Both **Rez** and **Dry Lips Oughta Move to Kapuskasing** have given Highway an international claim to fame, earning him Doris Mavor Moore and Floyd S. Chalmer awards.

The Rez Sisters' simple plotline revolves around seven indigenous women living on a reserve. Their passion is Bingo and they dream of the chance of playing at the "Biggest Bingo In The World."

Sound stereotypical and somewhat like Michel Tremblay's **Les Belles Soeurs**? Of course it does, and Tomson Highway had these things in mind when he wrote it. Still, **Rez** offers more than an insight into the world of bingo addiction, as director Élise Ménard explains.

"The message of the author is all about life's dreams, hopes, and realities —and being stuck in them," Ménard said, "The play's words speak for themselves, about all people who are confined to their situation, those people who are out there and just aren't getting their chance in life."

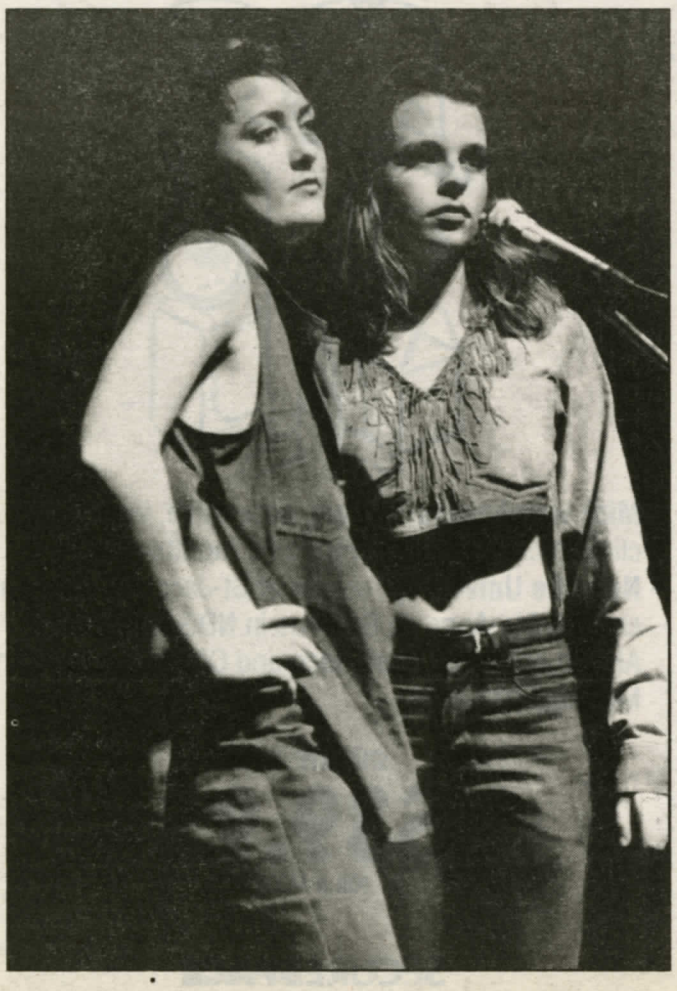

photo by Martin Chamberland

Ménard, who is originally from Montreal and did her masters at York, has worked all over the place. She says taking on the Concordia production has been both exciting and challenging for her and the cast, who are all working hard at polishing the show up for Friday night's opening in the DB Clark Theater of the Hall Building.

Exhausted yet ecstatic about the work, Ménard has taken over various elements of production, including the responsibility of sound effects.

The set design, by design student Sophie Huot, is simple yet intricate, constructed mainly of wood and metal and offering various levels. Other student designers involved include Sophie Archembault (Lighting) and Eryn Griffith (Costumes).

The cast of eight includes six Theater Performance students, a Drama-In-Education student, and a Theater Major student.

Aside from covering other elements of production, Ménard had a lot ahead of her in terms of her directing choices, including the challenge of taking a play originally done with a native cast, and putting it on with an all-white student cast. Ménard is not hiding anything in her direction on this issue.

"The actors are not native, and everything is the same," Ménard assures. She adds that she specifically did not ask the actors to play aboriginal characters, an issue very secondary to the play's ultimate vision and Ménard's interpretation.

Ménard says the play has universal appeal.

"The fact that people are confined, restricted from accomplishing the things they want to, is always contemporary. The bingo here is 'taking the money and running', as if it is a solution. It's like the (Montreal) casino, where the poor go to make their dreams come true and the very rich go to just have some fun."

The cast, doing research for their roles, even went to bingo during rehearsals.

"They've had a great time as a group", Ménard points out. The actors have good spirit, a good attitude, and have been fantastic from day one."

Concordia Theater Department's The Rez Sisters opens at the DB Clark Theater in the basement of the Hall Building, March 31-April 2 and April 6-8 at 8 PM, with a final matinée on April 9th at 2PM. $10 for adults, $7 for students and seniors. Call 848-4742 for REZervations. Support your theater department.

Media trip

by Dan Mucha

Laurie Anderson's daringly personal, multi-media work, *The Nerve Bible* appeared at Theatre St-Denis last week.

The show is of superior quality, using a mesmerizing array of visual and sonic effects to convey complex emotional states.

The Nerve Bible, which largely consists of pieces from Anderson's two current audio releases, *Bright Red* and *The Ugly One with the Jewels,* features some elements that have been her trademark. These include a "body synth" (a MIDI device triggered by hand motions and worn underneath clothing), multi-screen projections, computer animation, and a neon mic-stand with matching violin bow. This is also Anderson's first North American tour to feature her "laser tunnel," giving Pink Floyd some competition.

In the play, Anderson deals with many of her favorite concepts: progress ("the storm that blows angels backwards into the future"), vision ("the eyes are really kind of primitive...they're like pre-World War II field cameras"), time (is it long or is it wide?"), and control (the "Super Bowl" coverage of the Gulf War). The overall "story" lies in the cumulative impact of the songs and stories presented throughout the evening.

We learn in *The Nerve Bible* of a shocking incident that befell Anderson, necessitating her dependence on a single voice. While trekking in the Himalayas, she developed a severe altitude sickness, nearly resulting in death. As she was carried down to the hospital, the only thing she had to hold onto was the voice of a fellow traveler, talking to her non-stop throughout the descent. "This long thin line made of sound...the only thing that binds me to the turning world below," she sings in "Tightrope."

Despite the somewhat sober tone of the work, humour is not absent, especially in the realm of politics. A story from *The Nerve Bible* has Anderson testing out bombs for potential use in an Israeli performance in a Tel-Aviv parking lot. "Here I am, a citizen of the world's largest arms supplier, setting bombs off with the world's second largest arms customer, and I'm having a great time."

Music plays a significant role in *The Nerve Bible.* Anderson switches from keyboards to violin and puts in a rare appearance on the guitar, accompanied by, in the form of samples, Joey Baron on drums, Cyro Baptista on percussion, and Lou Reed on vocals.

The Nerve Bible will be performed on March 29 at the Fl7nn Theater for the Performing Arts in Burlington, Vermont.

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SECURESPACE

WIBNI they RTFM and stopped acting like WOMBATS

Internet slang makes some wonder just how accessible the net is

graphic by James Mejia

by Rob Bertrand

WIBNI people would just cram all those TLA's WTSDS? Are 'time saving' acronyms, slang and other jargon causing unnecessary UBD and resulting in a WOMBAT as people, especially newbies, try to understand them?

Did that make any sense to you? If you haven't connected to the information highway lately, probably not.

Abbreviations like the ones in the first paragraph are increasingly common as hackers try to cut down on typing time, show off their hacking credentials as well as their creativity at warping and shaping the English language.

But for a new user, these strange and obscure terms help make their entrance on the on-ramp of the information highway a scarier experience than driving on the Decarie Expressway during rush hour.

Hacker-extrordinaire Paul Boutin once joked that the biggest problem with computing in the 1990s would be that there were only about 17,000 possible combinations of three-letter acronyms (TLA's) to work with.

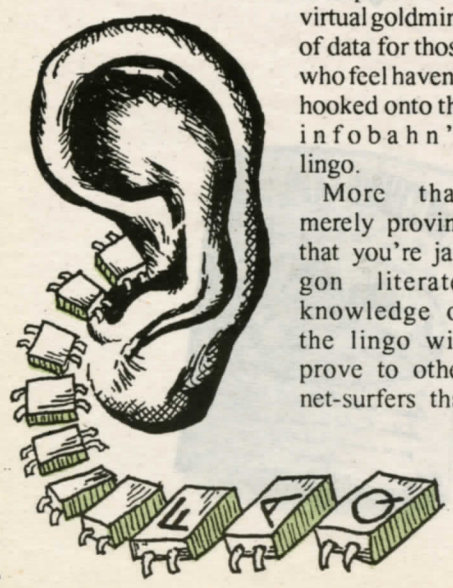
Boutin had nothing to worry about though—acronyms have gotten longer and more obscure by the day.

It's gotten to the point where jargon dictionaries are now available on the net to help both the cyberspace virgin and the cyberspace groupie keep up-to-date on all the knowledge and the patience to try and find them.

One such dictionary, Babel, a self-titled glossary of computer-oriented abbreviations and acronyms, focuses on techspeak definitions.

Its sheer size shows how daunting it can be for someone to know a term's meaning—there are over 175 entries starting with the letter 'A' alone. New words are being added constantly, and three new editions are printed every year.

The Jargon File is another such dictionary. Less technical is nature than Babel, it offers more than 2,000 entries of slang, jargon and techspeak. It's a virtual goldmine of data for those who feel haven't hooked onto the infobahn's lingo.



graphic by James Mejia

More than merely proving that you're jargon literate, knowledge of the lingo will prove to other net-surfers that you are worthy of their attention.

"Not knowing the slang, or using it inappropriately, defines one as being an outsider, a mundane, or, worst of all in hackish vocabulary, a suit," says Eric Raymond, editor of the on-line dictionary.

"All human cultures use slang in a three ways: as a tool of communication, of inclusion and of exclusion,' says Raymond. "The hacker culture includes a collection of subcultures that is conscious of their shared experiences, roots and values." Hackers use slang to prove their status as part of the community.

And while slang is not limited to hacking, it can pose problems to a medium which is supposedly accessible.

Slang is composed using various techniques. Some of the more popular include over-generalization—where suffixes are added to words to form new ones. If something is evident, it's full of 'obviousity.'

Another technique, 'soundalike slang,' replaces a term with another that sounds the same or similar. 'Data General' becomes 'Dirty Genitals;' Jean Chretien become Jean Cretin.

"Hackers love wordplay and are very conscious and inventive in their use of language," says Raymond.

But what throws off most new users are the acronyms, which now number in the thousands. While some are more common than others, it can be daunting to new users struggling to find out their meanings.

While it's possible to figure that TTYS means 'Talk To You Soon,' by looking at the context in which it's used, others like TANSTAAFL (There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch) are virtually impossible to decipher.

Someone who sees SEX isn't going to logically think 'Software Exchange' or that 'unprotected SEX' can possible mean catching a virus—on your computer.

There are some who feel that the existence of new slang is a healthy sign to a language in danger of becoming stagnant.

"I think that all the info-bahn-cyber-whosits will be a great addition to the language," says Michael Methot, system operator of the Pond, a Montreal bulletin board system (BBS).

"I think that we will keep seeing a whole series of continuous change in usage, and I believe these changes are a sign of vitality," he said.

But Methot adds that the new jargon can also be used to insulate hackerdom from newcomers.

"I think that what is more alienating are the unwritten rules of the culture," says Methot. "I once asked for information on a cult movies discussion group on a particular movie. The response I got was to go and call up the FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) file. I hadn't known that was the procedure..."

The cold and impersonal manner in which Methot was treated left a distinct impression on him. "It felt like the people had been waiting to jump all over me."

Many hackers feel marginalized in real life and perhaps see this medium as a chance to turn the tables on other not as socially adept on-line as they are off-line.

Methot compares this sensation to a Star Trek convention where "perennially pubescent males snicker at your lack of fashion sense when putting together your Klingon costume."

Mike Cochrane, a third-year engineering student at Concordia, agrees with Methot's assessment, but also sees jargon as a welcome challenge.

"While the jargon may form an initial barrier to some people who don't know it, this barrier is very easy to cross. Once it is crossed, the net becomes much simpler."

He cites any number of ways a new 'poster' can find out what a particular piece of jargon means.

He suggests asking someone you know on the net for the definition, posting to a newsgroup dedicated to new net-surfers, and asking outright, or e-mailing the person who used the term and explain that you are a new user and ask what it means.

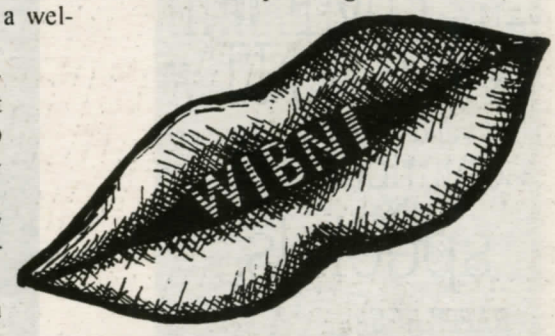
His last suggestion, asking what it means on the newsgroup directly, he admits is "a little more dangerous." Many hackers have little patience for users who ask common or stupid questions.

Apart from possibly being seen as an outcast by many on the discussion group, a user who asks such a question is in a vulnerable position for a 'Gang FAQ,' where a whole group e-mails that user the discussion group's Frequently Asked Questions, or a mailbomb where each member sends multiple copies of the FAQ in e-mail.

Cochrane thinks that one has to be willing to invest time into this hobby and not expect everything to fall into place right away.

"I think that for a person who can lose patience easily, perhaps the net isn't the place for them—where delays for downloads, and replies to messages and e-mail are omnipresent," Cochrane added.

"As long as you're trying to get into the discourse, it seems to be an insurmountable obstacle," says Methot. "But once you are in it's a great time-saver and quite conducive to warm and fuzzy feelings."



WIBNI-Wouldn't It be Nice If
RTBM-Read The Bloody Manual, a slightly nicer version of...
RTFS-Read The Fucking Source
TLA-Three Letter Acronyms
UBD-User Brain Damage
WOMBAT-Waste Of Money, Brains and Time
FAQ-Frequently Asked Questions
WTSDS-Where The Sun Don't Shine
IMHO-In my humble opinion

China: 2010

continued from page 17

Public Security News, an official newspaper. "It is a wonderful thing for society, and yet it also brings great tragedy."

Sounding the alarm over the sex ratio, the official press is beginning to warn that today's infant boys will be unable to find wives in 20 years' time. Yet, aside from vague warnings about "bachelor villages" multiplying in the countryside, no one is yet exploring what social consequences may arise in a nation with a huge surplus of males.

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Filling in the Blancs

Reclaiming Black Wymyn's History in Western Art

by Terry Provost

Since its inception, western art has been primarily defined as a White, androcentric preserve. So how did the straight White male historically perceive the Black womyn? What, then, did Olympia's maid and Keppel's servant really signify?

Although nearly 100 years separate these two paintings (of course each completed by a White male artist), they both display similar themes concerning Black womynhood. That Edourd Manet's "Olympia" and Joshua Reynolds' "Lady Keppel" depict Black wymyn as subordinates and sexual subversives is telling of the way in which patriarchal ideologies defined Black and White femininity in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Europe. While White womynhood epitomized propriety, chasteness, and pulchritude, Black womynhood symbolized servility, animalism, and sexual deviancy.

Charmaine Nelson will attest to this. As a Concordia graduate student specializing in Canadian art history, with a particular interest in Black female representation in western art, nelson claims that, traditionally, the juxtaposition of Black and White wymyn served two purposes: 1)to accentuate the beauty of the White female; and 2) to mediate sexual deviancy.

The Black female presence was used to create concrete as well as abstract dichotomies that emphasized the physical and moral superiority of White wymyn. Nelson says that "the assumption from the legacy of slavery is that Black people are oppositional in beauty—as well as intellect and everything else—to the White person. So in terms of scales of beauty, the White womyn would be the ultimate whereas the Black wymyn would always be at the bottom of the rung, with people of colour falling in between."

In Lady Keppel's portrait, nothing could be more blatant than the eroticization and subordination of the Black womyn. Contrasted against the sky and her mistress, the servant occupies a small space behind Keppel's extravagant gown. She subserviently arranges a wreath of flowers near its train. Her windblown hair and low-cut bodice signify unrestrained sexuality; her unkempt, provocative appearance plays up Keppel's virginally groomed mein. She grasps the end of the wreath in her left hand, symbolizing perhaps her location in the social hierarchy. Genuflected at her mistress' feet, the Black female servant looks up to the White Lady in racial veneration.

A similar situation occurs in "Olympia" where the Black maid is also located at her White mistress' feet, denoting her inferior status. Manet's "Olympia" reinterprets Titian's "Venus of Urbino" 91538) where, initially, the female nude reposes while a dog—symbol of fidelity—sleeps at her bare feet; were represented as either nudes or naked females. The nude, more socially acceptable during Manet's time, was commonly used to depict allegories. Clothing on a female body, even the smallest amount, decreases its allegorical nudeness and increases its realistic nakedness—a definite faux pas back then.

The one slipper Manet paints on Olympia changes the painting's entire context. Olympia is no longer a classical, mythical figure, but rather a naked womyn, knowing of her own sexuality. The way she assertively covers her pudenda implies this. Olympia's nakedness must "be read in connection with

her tow White maids occupy the distant background. Manet changed several elements in his work, which created a public stir at the time. his Olympia, a snow-white prostitute, lounges unclothed with not a sleeping dog, but with an energetic pet cat—symbol of female sexuality—standing at her feet. But, interestingly, Manet has painted the cat Black and slippered Olympia's soles. What do these symbols mean?

Here Nelson provides more insight.

She explains that White wymyn the Black servant. You can't really separate them," says Nelson.

She claims that, in relation to Olympia, the maid can be interpreted "as a symbol which speaks about the negative deviant sexuality of the White womyn."

During slavery, patriarchal culture stereotypically branded Black wymyn as sexual subversives; and White male scientists, like Georges Cuvier, attempted to prove that Black female sexuality was a pathology in itself. One African womyn, Saartjie Baartman, coercively exposed with only a loin piece at European tea parties and exhibitions, ended up on Cuvier's table when she died, with her genitals and buttocks dissected. In their quest to label Black female sexuality as deviant, many White scientists hacked away at Black wymyn's bodies.

According to Nelson, the Black womyn's presence influences the White womyn to act in a sexually deviant manner: "The presence of the Black womyn transfers this sexuality onto the White womyn. That's how Manet is using the Black maidservant. Back then, Blackness was reason enough to mediate sexual deviancy."

This graduate student believes Black wymyn were viewed as having a "sexual looseness" and also that these myths about Black wymyn are still perpetuated in today's media.

Is Nelson's claim justifiable?

It most certainly is.

In the March 1995 issue of a fashion magazine, the mythological bestial Black womyn is recreated and used to sell lipstick. Her scanty red clothing, spread-eagled legs, frontal thrust, and sultry expression denote the "sexual looseness" Nelson spoke of. Its caption above, "Five-Alarm Red," are written in red and Black, a play on her racial ethnicity. While White wymyn's depiction ranges from the womyn of elegance to the vulgar harlot, Black wymyn's depiction is still limited to female slave stereotypes.

Likewise, in another March periodical, a slender Black womyn lies—sexually conquered and tamed—beneath a muscular White male. Although superbly striated, his musculature denotes predatoriness. He looks not at the Black womyn, but skywards. She therefore becomes a disregarded sexual object—simulating a part of Black wymyn's historic reality as well as creating the traditional western racial and sex hierarchy: Important White male on top, insignificant Black female at the bottom. Iconography from the slavery era is still alive and well in western art.

Tattoos possible to remove

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There's no pain involved in this method of tattoo removal, unlike some of the older methods, and no local anaestesia is required unless the tattoo is really big and the patient asks for it. The sensation is like a pinching feeling: like a stretched rubber band hitting the skin.

Methods used to-date have not been as advanced as the ruby laser. In the past, a method called "tissue expansion" was used, where a balloon is inserted and inflated under the skin to slowly stretch the flesh. The tattoo was then cut out and the newly stretched skin covered its place. This was good for smaller tattoos and left a straight-line surgical scar.

Another method, "Sal Abrasion," was basically done by rubbing the image with salt and "rubbing it out." This left more scarring.

"Staged excision" was a method of cutting the tattoo out, a small piece at a time. Needless to say, this left a lot of scarring.

In the end, a lot of people still go for a cover-up. They get a new, nicer tattoo to cover up the old one.

At Tatouage Artistique, Keith says he does a lot of covering up.

"People take their jackets off in the summer, and walk around bare, and then they notice what a crappy-looking thing they have on their bodies, so they want to change it."

He also said that he often has people who want a tattoo to cover up dermatologists' tattoo removal scars.

In the end, Keith says that people should wait about a year before they go ahead with a tattoo.

"At least, that way, they can become more comfortable with the idea so that they don't get sick of it or ashamed of it in a few years."

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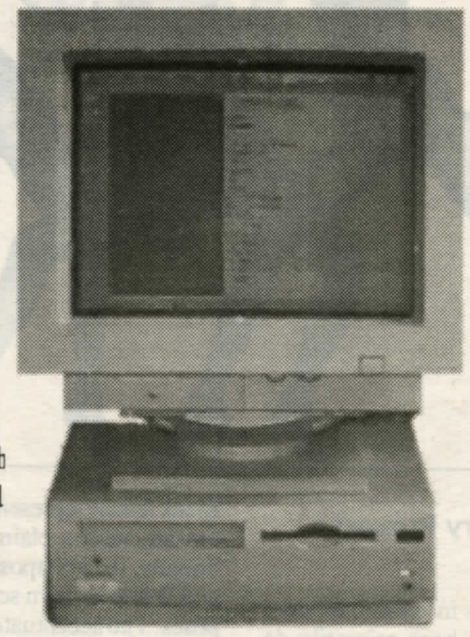

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